



82-12332

Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai of America

September 30, 1982

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Casey:

On behalf of Mr. George M. Williams, the General Director of our American Buddhist organization, I would like to invite you and your guest to attend some very special events which we have scheduled here in Washington, D.C. during the October 9-10 weekend.

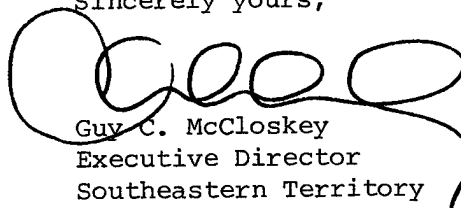
Twenty-five thousand NSA members will be gathering here to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our activities in the United States. The schedule for Saturday evening, October 9, includes a concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the Monument grounds featuring Herbie Hancock, other prominent jazz artists and well-known entertainers; and a fireworks display twice the size of the 4th of July show. We will sponsor a parade starting at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, October 10, on Constitution Avenue which will feature a marching unit carrying 10,000 3' x 5' American flags, followed by a spectacular Hawaiian show on the Mall presented by 400 performers from among 1,000 NSA members travelling to Washington from Honolulu.

The overall theme of this activity is "Aloha, We Love America!" Aloha expresses the open-armed warmth and friendship of the Hawaiian people and echoes the spirit of NSA, which stresses the dignity of human life.

I have enclosed a brochure describing NSA, its purpose and activities, together with a special issue of our weekly newspaper, the World Tribune, featuring a recent event held to celebrate similar themes.

Special arrangements will be made for guest seating and parking. We will contact your office in a few days to see whether you will be able to attend. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us.

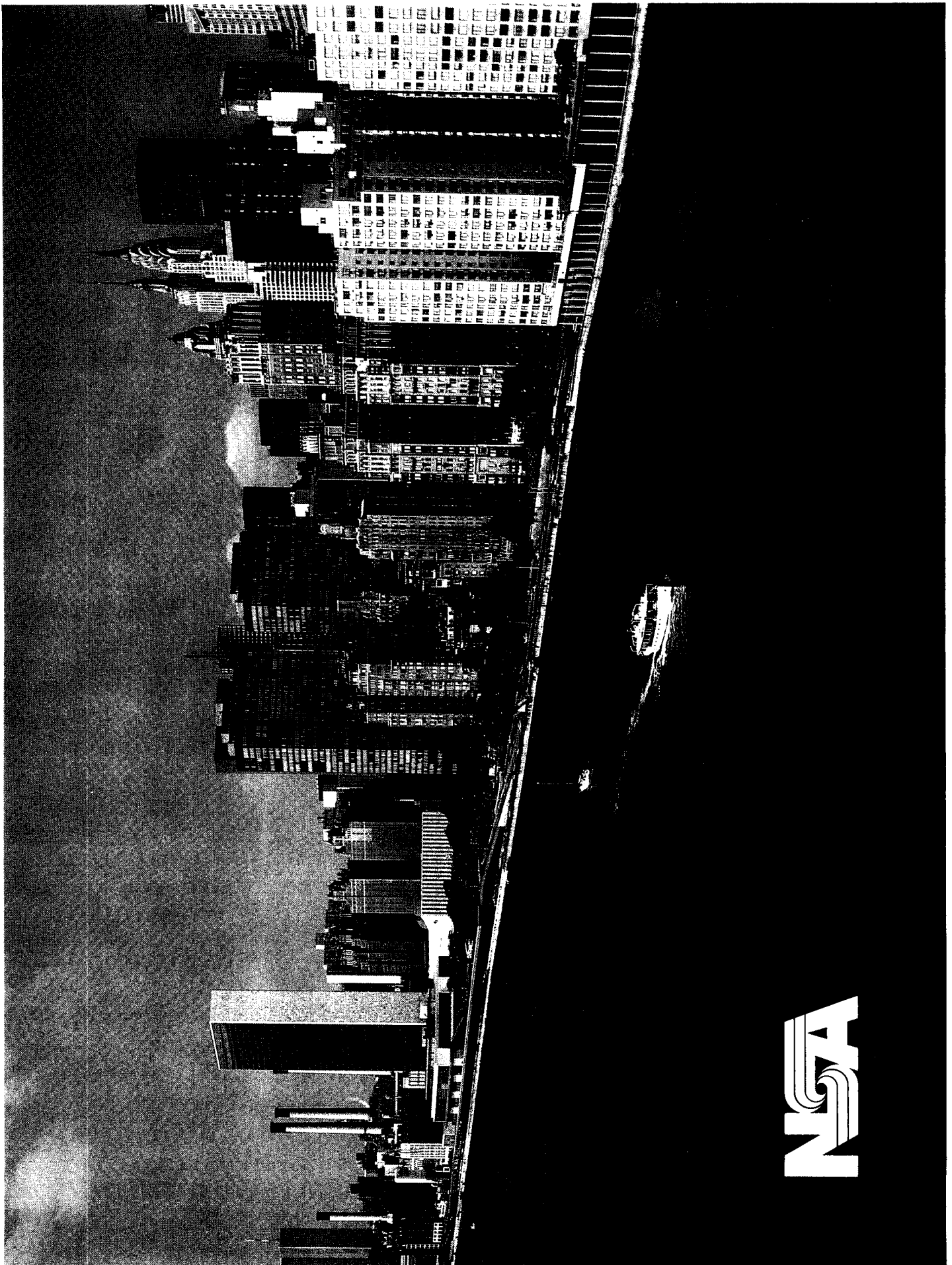
Sincerely yours,


Guy C. McCloskey
Executive Director
Southeastern Territory



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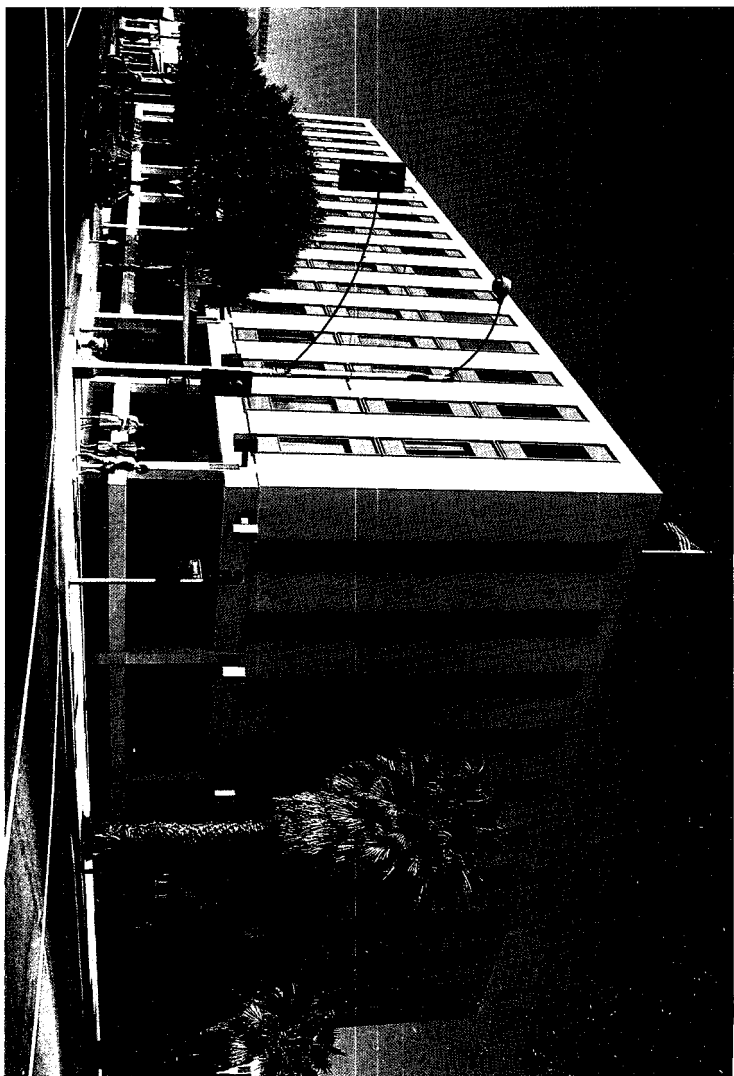
"TOWARD THE 21ST CENTURY"

We live in an age when science and the things it has created have gone beyond the spiritual development of human beings — a time when people seem to have lost control of the material civilization they have built. The time has come to think, to ask ourselves where we are going. Does the 21st century really hold bright hope for us? As the situation stands, it is difficult to answer this affirmatively. But what if there were a means to bring out the infinite potential latent in human beings? A way to bring new vitality to our educational system, our cultural life, our social activities? The Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin offers such a way.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF NSA

NSA, the organization of lay believers in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in America, was organized in 1960. Since that time, its members have devoted themselves to spreading the message of Buddhism — that a way out of the morass of modern civilization is at hand and readily available. This has been facilitated through a variety of organized activities, including discussion meetings in people's homes, larger meetings at NSA community centers, and participation in cultural events in society at large. Though NSA is highly and efficiently organized, its sole purpose is to serve the individual believer.

The Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin itself casts a precious light upon the life of each individual believer. In that sense, it is a personal religion. Yet Nichiren Daishonin was mindful, too, of the needs of society as a whole. To save the suffering masses of humanity, he left us the Dai-Gohonzon, the supreme object of worship which can bring peace and happiness to all mankind. The purpose of NSA is to make known to our age the compassionate spirit of Buddhism. It is a movement for the people that arose spontaneously from among the people.



NICHIREN SHOSHU and the HEAD TEMPLE TAISEKI-JI

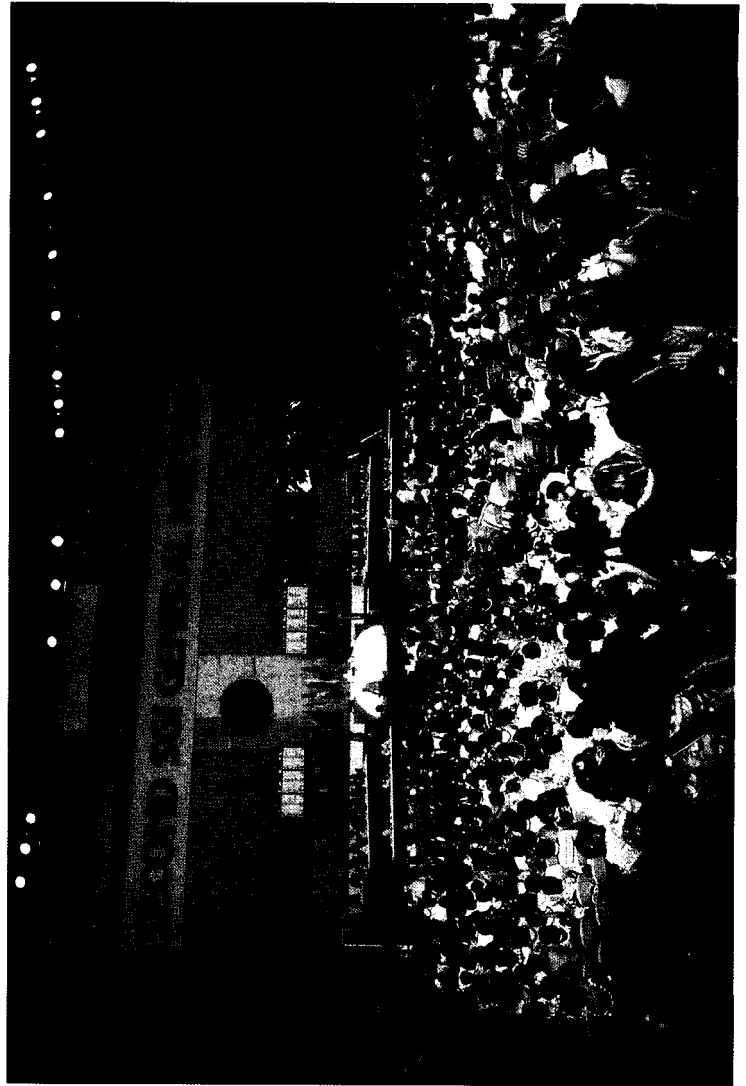
The Dai-Gohonzon is enshrined in the Grand Main Temple, known as the Sho-Hondo, at the Nichiren Shoshu Head Temple Taiseki-ji in Japan. For seven centuries, the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood has faithfully preserved and handed down the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin. Taiseki-ji is the center of faith in Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, to which believers come from all over the world, testifying by their presence to the universal appeal of the Daishonin's message. The Head Temple was founded in 1290, when the second high priest, Nikko Shonin, moved from the secluded mountain area of Mt. Minobu to a broad plain at the foot of Mount Fuji, overlooking Suruga Bay to the south. Having established a base here, Nikko Shonin began the task of spreading faith in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. Taiseki-ji has been the home for Nichiren Shoshu ever since.

In 1979, NST (Nichiren Shoshu Temple) was officially organized and incorporated to embrace Nichiren Shoshu temples in the United States. Current temple sites include Honolulu, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and New York.

The SGI and NSA

In 1975, the Soka Gakkai International was founded as an umbrella organization for all worldwide lay organizations. Daisaku Ikeda, third president of the Japanese lay society, the Soka Gakkai, became the first president of the SGI and since then has crisscrossed the globe on many occasions to carry out his important responsibilities in overseeing the success and welfare of the individual organizations.

Both the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood and the lay organizations throughout the world work in concert to bring the message of Nichiren Daishonin to suffering humanity. The Soka Gakkai International functions to coordinate activities around the world.



DAISAKU IKEDA and his TRAVELS FOR PEACE

In his years as president of the Soka Gakkai and now as president of the Soka Gakkai International, Daisaku Ikeda has been instrumental in the worldwide lay people's movement. In 1960, he helped create NSA while on his first overseas trip; at that time, he also visited Canada and Brazil to get the movements started in those places as well.

Mr. Ikeda has carried out a broad range of discussions with various civic and cultural leaders throughout the world. He has been to China and the Soviet Union on several occasions. His dialogue with the late British historian Arnold Toynbee on issues of vital concern to modern man has been published in several languages. He has given lectures at major universities and donated books to these institutions' libraries in hopes of fostering mutual understanding among the peoples of the world.

Mr. Ikeda is fond of all people, and he makes himself at home wherever he goes, whether it be Paris, France or Lima, Peru. He has been made an honorary citizen of some forty-nine foreign countries, many of which have given him citations of merit. The worldwide ambassador of goodwill thinks of himself not as an ideologue, but primarily as one human being working for peace. To him, people are more important than ideology. He is acutely aware that whatever a person might believe, he is still a human being deserving of respect.





STUDY MOVEMENT

In one of his writings, Nichiren Daishonin said: "Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism." Accordingly, NSA not only carries out the noble mission of teaching others how to practice Buddhism, it also encourages and promotes study of the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin.

The primary source of this study is the writings of the Daishonin himself. More than four hundred of his letters and theses are still existing. Many of these have been translated into English and appear in their entirety in *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*. These form the basis of study in NSA.

NSA SEMINARS

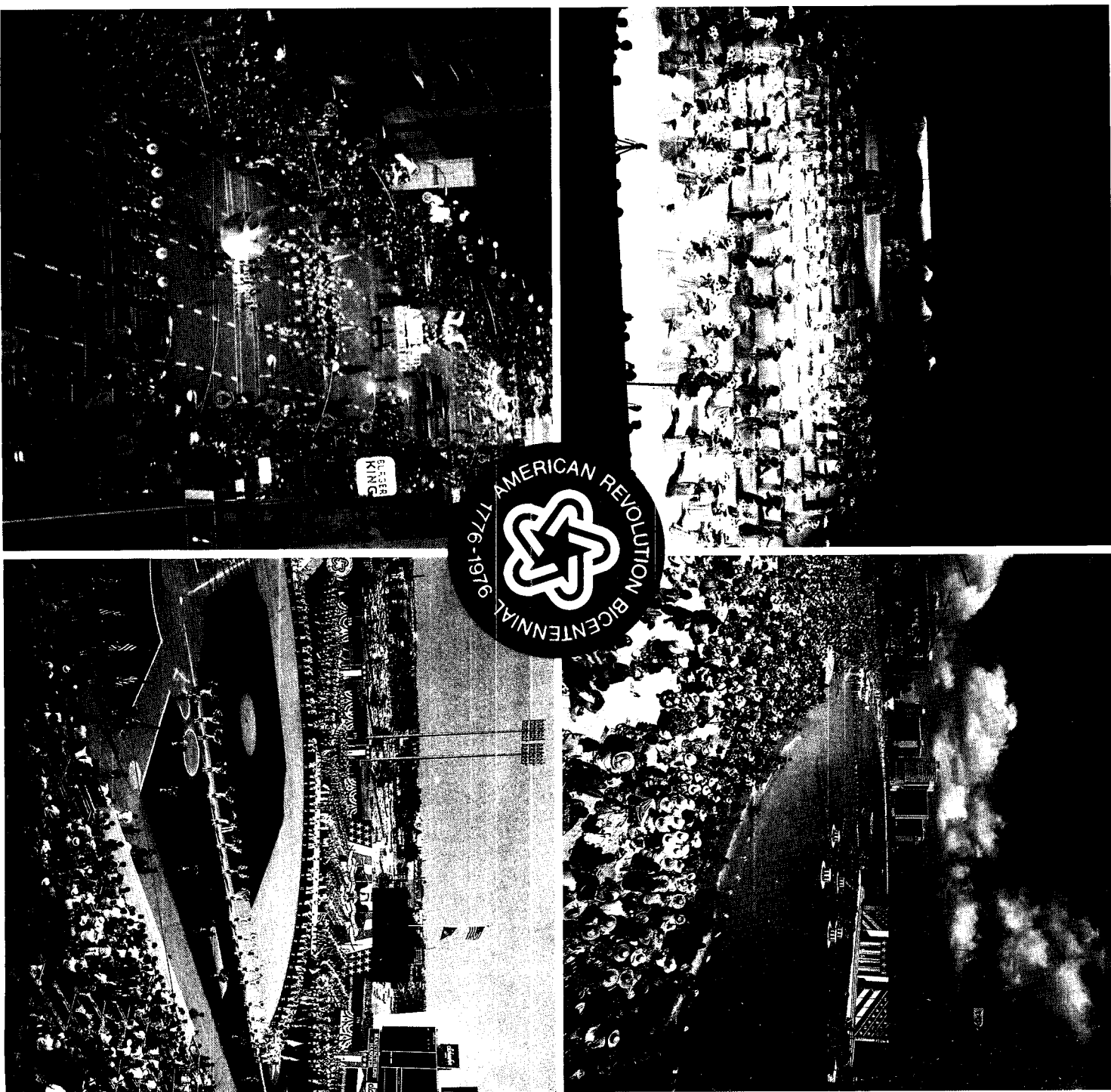
The general director of NSA, George M. Williams, has traveled extensively to college and university campuses to explain the fundamentals of true Buddhism to inquisitive audiences of young and old alike. Through simple analogies and historical examples, he has sought to show that Buddhism indeed offers solutions to the deepest problems troubling people today. Often, Mr. Williams' own energy and enthusiasm do as much as his words to show the great power of Buddhist faith to awaken and transform each individual life. As the vice president of the Soka Gakkai International, he has also presented books to the school libraries on behalf of SGI President Ikeda.

CULTURAL MOVEMENT

At various times, NSA has staged spectacular festivals showing the joy of living that comes from practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. The nation's Bicentennial in 1976 was the focus of one such effort, put on for the sake of people in Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Hawaii. For its efforts, NSA was officially recognized by the nation's Bicentennial sponsor, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). The NSA shows, parade units and floats all proudly displayed the official ARBA logo. To this day, NSA continues to participate in parades and other cultural happenings.

MUSIC FOR HUMANITY

NSA parade units — its fife and drum corps and its brass bands, organized by locale—perform in parades virtually the year round. Their lively music and invigorating performance have drawn praise from civic officials across the land and thrilled spectators in towns and cities everywhere.





NSA PUBLICATIONS

NSA provides a variety of publications for its membership, including the weekly newspaper, the *World Tribune*, and the monthly magazine, the *Seikyo Times*. In addition, it publishes books and pamphlets from time to time, and offers books printed in Japan under the aegis of the Nichiren Shoshu International Center. All in all, these publications provide a priceless compendium of Buddhist wisdom.

LEADERSHIP OF NSA

The Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin made its way to America in the hearts and minds of the wives of American servicemen returning from overseas duty in Japan. Scattered throughout the United States, these few war bride believers had little or no contact with each other until a man named Masayasu Sadanaga came here in 1957. He took it upon himself to encourage them and to establish an informal network of communication so that others, too, might take up the faith. Later, he became a naturalized American and took the name George M. Williams. In his heart he considers himself a native American, and he shows his love for his "homeland" by spreading what he considers the fundamental means to people's happiness — faith in true Buddhism.

Mr. Williams, as the organization's general director, is still the driving force of NSA. He is assisted by an able group of leaders in each major territory of the United States and by his staff at the national headquarters in Santa Monica, California. He resides in Santa Monica with his wife and three children and he is listed in *Who's Who of American Religion*.

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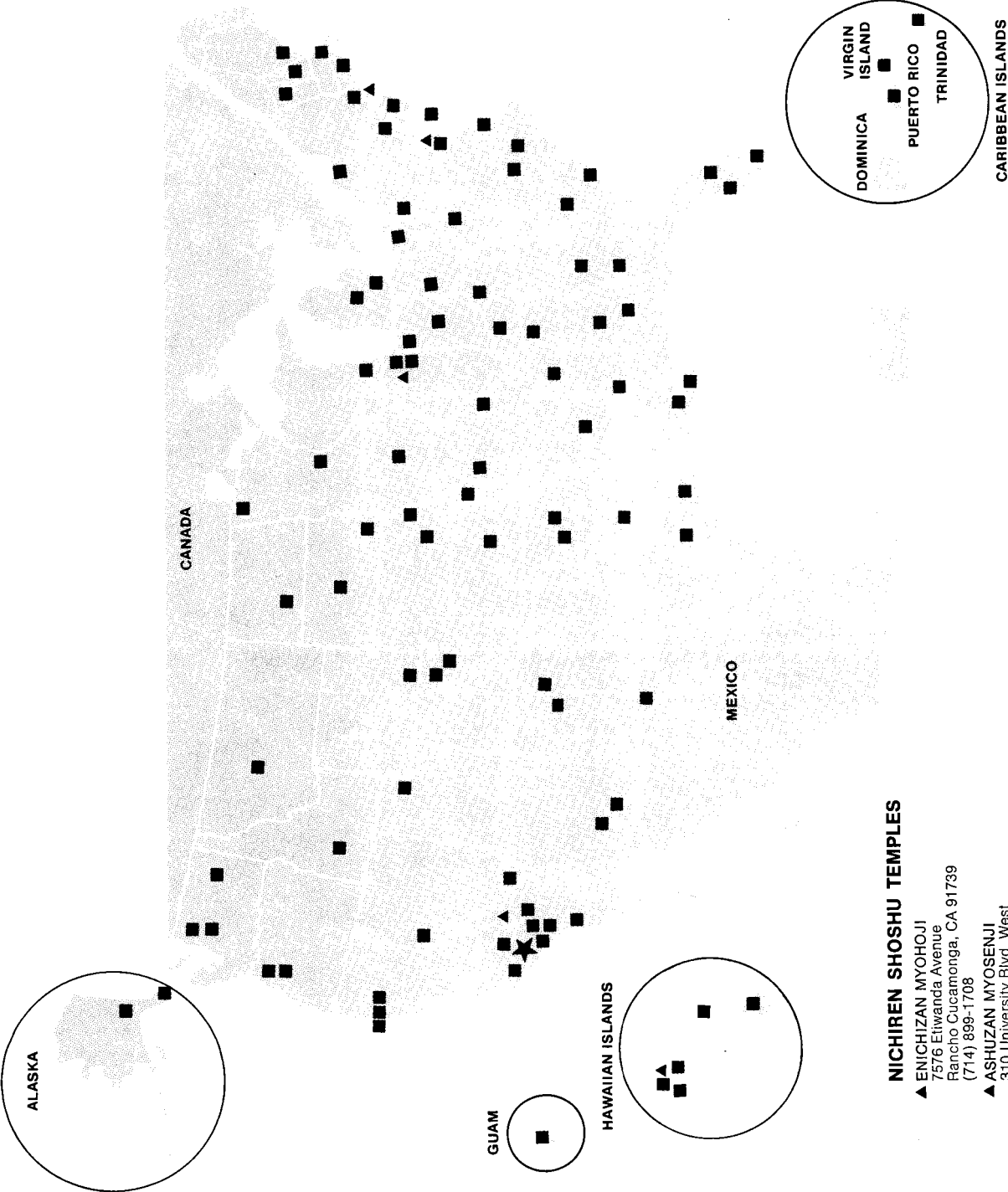
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- **NSA Community Centers**
- **NSA Activity Centers**

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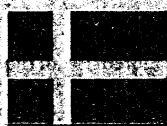
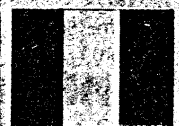
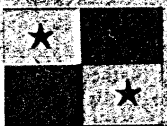
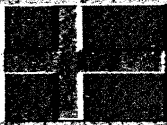
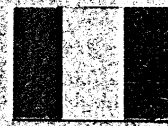
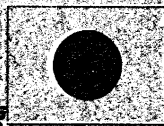
Special Issue on 2nd World Peace Grand Culture Festival

World Tribune

No. 2394 (ISSN 0049-8165)

525 WILSHIRE BLVD., P.O. Box 1427, SANTA MONICA, CA, 90406 (213) 451-8811

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982



'Renaissance of Peace' heralds new dawn



Their performance of the 2nd World Peace Grand Culture festival triumphantly completed, participants glow with the joy of their accomplishment. The Tokyo event featured participants from the world over and was held on two consecutive nights, September 18 and 19. This issue recounts that extravaganza, its obstacles, its joys—its ultimate success.

Song of hope fills Tokyo skies

TOKYO
SEPTEMBER 18

The first performance of the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival took place here today on a clear, warm evening in nearby Tokorozawa City. Seibu Lions Baseball Stadium was filled to its 35,000-capacity with spectators from Tokyo, Saitama and the Yokohama area. Among the participants were 3,000 overseas members from 37 countries. In addition to the spectators, the performers totalled more than 40,000.

The festival was unquestionably an overwhelming success, leaving those witnessing tonight's performance unable to find adequate words to express their feelings. A new vocabulary will have to be developed to even attempt to describe the impact this type of performance has. It is a thing of unsurpassed beauty to see, expressed through such a festival, the deep resolve and the joy of life felt by tens of thousands of people who live their lives each day for the sake of humanity and a peaceful world.



NSA General Director George M. Williams waves 'chemical lights' to thank and encourage performers following the Sunday festival.

This event marked the second year of continuing culture festivals to bring to the world's attention the reality of kosen-rufu through the expression of vital human culture. It began with the First World Peace Grand Culture Festival held in Chicago last year. SGI President Daisaku Ikeda and Nichiren Shoshu High Priest Nikken Shonin attended last year's event.

Each section of the festival would have made a spectacular finale for any other type of show. Every group numbered performers in the thousands, and their technique was of the highest order, surpassing even anything the Soka Gakkai has presented until today.

The performers were all members of the youth division, and the majority are second-generation members—children of parents who have been strongly practicing faith.

Many of the pioneering youth division members of the Soka Gakkai who were participants or organizers of the historic Kansai "culture festival in the rain" 16 years ago were here today to see their own children make history. One was a pioneer who coordinated the famous festival in 1966. He felt a deep sense of happiness that the torch of kosen-rufu was being passed on to the next generation, but added that participation in the festival held a great meaning for his daughter as well. Although he has been a pioneer and top leader for years, his children practiced faith only as a matter of course. However, after one of his

daughters participated in another culture festival on March 22nd of this year, she has enthusiastically embraced her practice and excitedly exclaimed the greatness of the Soka Gakkai and the mission of kosen-rufu. His other daughter was participating for the first time in today's event.

The prelude to the festival began at 5 p.m. with an exhibition game by little league baseball players. At 5:30 sharp, a homerun (shot from a small cannon at home plate) electronically triggered the crackle of aerial explosions and colored smoke bombs, marking the official beginning. A procession of the flags of the world carried by NSA's young men's division members entered through the opening in the centerfield wall. The massive 10,000-member card stunt section, which doubled as an immense chorus, flashed "2nd World Peace Culture Festival" in the outfield bleachers; balloons were released from the field, and the festival was under way.

The 10,000-member chorus opened with "Climb Every Mountain." Next was the entrance of the "Angels of Peace"—the Kotekital (Fife and Drum Corps)—playing "Around the World in 80 Days." They made formations and formed brilliant patterns with flags of shocking pink and blue, and of orange and green. Their red and white uniforms contrasted with the yellow of the little girls with pompoms who danced and bounced with unbridled enthusiasm.

The card section switched to "Renaissance of Peace" and the music to "Keem-o-Sabe" as the NSA Fife and Drum Corps marched down the center to do its routine in red, and blue cowgirl and Indian costumes. Their performance was featured and then combined with the Soka Gakkai Fife and Drum Corps to bring this segment to a powerful close.

SGI President Ikeda had sent a message to the performers previously which said in part, "Rather than trying to perform skillfully or merely to look nice and be beautiful, show your dynamic vitality. Express yourselves through your dynamic, powerful action." The performers were certainly living up to this guideline, and the next groups were not exceptions. First the girls' junior and senior high division, and then the boys' junior and senior high division members did energetic dances with the themes "Sparkling Eyes" and "Taking Flight." The yellow-and-blue costumes seemed to literally take to the air as they streamed back and forth like an artist's brush strokes on a canvas.

Brilliant tones of blaring brass heralded the entrance of the Soka Gakkai young men's Brass Band in their red and black uniforms. A huge corps of flag carriers in blue formed intricate patterns. Kettle drums and portable xylophones added both power and delicacy to their music as they continued to march at a fast pace.

(Please turn to page 4)

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2 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982

AN EDITORIAL

Super effort yields super result

Hundreds of NSA members have recently returned from a most memorable journey to Japan, where the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival was held. In addition, each of them was fortunate enough to worship the Dai-Gohonzon, and selected representatives were able to attend the Third Soka Gakkai International General Meeting. Already, their tales of obstacles overcome and achievements won against all odds have added a refreshing touch to the meetings they have attended.

It is not all that frequent that members are able to experience in such a concentrated dose the magic of faith and the power of unity put to a noble purpose—in this case, the purpose being to showcase for all the world the beauty and determination of those who embrace Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. But these people did take part in a massive, whirlwind campaign to put on a culture festival with participants from the world over, and as a result, they were able to refresh their faith and make new determinations for the future.

Some of us who stayed behind may feel a tinge of regret that we weren't able to attend, or that we don't share with them the same fresh, determined feeling about our practice. If we do feel that way, it is important to remember that it was not the culture festival that engendered such a recharged feeling in the participants—it was their determined faith and effort that brought it about.

The important point to capture, for both participant and non-participant alike, then, is that the culture festival was a lesson in how to summon up our faith and muster the power to accomplish the impossible from somewhere deep inside us. Culture festivals and large movements have always provided an opportunity to drive this lesson home to everyone who got involved. And the real winners have been the ones who realized that their participation was teaching them an invaluable lesson about faith, and who then applied that lesson to the mundane but often troubling affairs of their daily lives.

All this is not to say that the recent Second

World Peace Grand Culture Festival was not a stunning success and an unforgettable memory (which was made even more unforgettable by the rain). Rather, it is to remind all believers that the same refreshed, determined attitude about faith and practice that the festival participants now exude is something which is readily at everyone's disposal. All we have to do is tackle the problems and aspirations of our daily lives with the same vigor, the same never-give-up spirit and the same type of daimoku and prayer that can move mountains, and we too will be equally as supercharged in our faith.

Nichiren Daishonin wrote in "Reply to Kyo'o": "Muster your faith and pray to this Gohonzon. Then what is there that cannot be achieved?" The participants in the World Peace Grand Culture Festival proved this. Now it is up to us, whether or not we were in Tokyo on September 18-19 for that historic event, to prove it in our daily lives for all the world to see. □

WEEKLY GOSHO STUDY

Prayers that are answered

#28 "On Prayer"
(Gosho Zenshu, p. 1351, not yet in the Major Writings series)

Even though the earth were flipped away with a finger, even if someone were to link the heavens, even should the tides cease to ebb and flow, or the sun rise in the west, it could never happen that the prayers of votaries of the Lotus Sutra would go unanswered.

As we struggle with our day-to-day problems, we sometimes lose sight of the great power that we have at our disposal in the Gohonzon of the Three Great Secret Laws. When we invoke Nam-myoho-enge-kyo to the Gohonzon with strong faith, we are

making the cause to have our prayers come true. Said another way, there is no reason to chant to the Gohonzon without having prayers in mind. Having a prayer, or expectation of result from embracing the Gohonzon, is the essence of faith.

SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, in giving a lecture on this Gosho once, said:

What we therefore must do is to grapple with all of our problems in life and at the same time pray deeply to the Gohonzon for their solution. Continuous and strenuous prayers at each new juncture and the consecutive answers thereby obtained have always been the driving force of each individual human revolution.

Focal Points

The tremendous young men's rally on August 28, now this fantastic Grand World Peace Culture Festival in Tokyo—everything is pointed toward a great "Aloha—We Love America" Rally in Washington, D.C. in October. Let's all gather there to show the nation proof of the radiance that comes from the lives of people who embrace the Gohonzon.

George M. Williams
NSA General Director

Thus, rather than getting lost in our daily-life problems and growing anxious over what to do, we should recall Nichiren Daishonin's golden exhortation to "Employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before any other." In other words, we should pray to the Gohonzon first and foremost.

It is important to remember, however, that prayers by themselves will not necessarily lead to the desired result. SGI President Ikeda also explained, "Prayer without action is idealism, and action without prayer is futile."

Prayer coupled with action is the key to leading a victorious life, for as

President Ikeda says, "Prayer without action is idealism, and action without prayer is futile." Both action and prayer are needed. That's why we begin each day with the recitation of gongyo and the chanting of daimoku to pray for the results we want that day. Then, in the evening we return to the Gohonzon to report what efforts we have made and to refresh our determination for the next day. Carried out throughout our lives, this daily practice will assure our enlightenment and fulfillment in the long run, we can see that, truly, "It could never happen that the prayers of votaries of the Lotus Sutra would go unanswered." □

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Rain cannot dampen their spirits

TOKYO
SEPTEMBER 19

The second performance of the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival held at Seibu Lions Stadium tonight was even more dramatic than that of the previous night for several reasons. One was the presence of 67th High Priest Nikken Shonin and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. Another was the 5,000 guests which included many top leaders of business and government.

One big difference from the performance of the night before was the weather—it rained. While rain would have caused the dampening of spirits or a cancellation of many events, tonight it seemed to have the opposite effect. Spectators and performers alike seemed more determined than ever to go ahead with the performance.

A few minutes before the start of a pre-festival exhibition baseball game, SGI President Ikeda walked through the seating area behind home plate under a light but consistent drizzle. He spoke briefly to those seated in the area and quickly entered the field and walked the entire circumference of the field, thanking the youth division members for their efforts in spite of the rain. Taking a microphone, he asked everyone to please take precaution so as not to catch a cold, and once again thanked everyone for coming.

Congratulatory messages which were received by SGI President Ikeda were acknowledged, and the one from United States Senator Charles Percy and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar were read. More than 50 messages from government leaders were received from the United States alone.

One reason the rain may have heightened the spirits of the performers rather than lowered it was that almost all were familiar with the spirit behind overcoming adversity, which became a tradition after the 1966 Kansai Festival in the rain. Knowing of this historic event, most were prepared to rise to any challenge.

The spirit and vitality of each performance group seemed to brighten as the rain gradually intensified during the first two-thirds of the show. While the 1966 event had been on a dirt field which quickly turned to mud, today's event was on astro turf, an artificial playing surface. It became slippery, however, and it became a challenge merely to avoid falling. The audience also seemed heartened by the

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Jazz greets Herbie Hancock, Buster Williams, Wayne Shorter and others, all NSA members, entertain following the finale of the September 19 culture festival.

determination of the performers and remained in their seats for the entire two-hour festival.

A specially chartered train called the Red Arrow departed from Shinjuku Ward in Tokyo directly to Seibu Stadium carrying 3,000 guests.

Also among the guests at tonight's performance were the ambassadors to Japan from France, Peru, China, and South Korea, among others. The governor of Tokyo and the chairman of Sony Corporation also attended.

Following the performance the French ambassador, Xavier Daufreine de la Chevalerie, commented, "What I felt as I watched the festival was that there was no dead time—no breaks in the performance. That intervalless, flowing performance overwhelmed me. I consider being always in motion to be a characteristic of religion. Behind the depths of today's performance was proof of the living religion I feel. During the performance of the human letters on the stadium floor, I saw a picture of first one man, then two, and then three following in unity. In that, I saw the ultimate of a peace movement."

Sony Chairman Akio Morita remarked, "It was magnificent and breathtaking. I once saw your Kansai Festival on television, but this was the first time I saw your culture festival with my own eyes. The youthfulness and vitality in performances indeed took my breath away. It is indeed meaningful that you are able to do such a festival with the whole-hearted support of so many young people in today's Japan. Such an event would be impossible to

accomplish with the power of just one man. Because everyone here has one common belief, such an incredible feat is possible."

Toward the end of the festival the rain seemed to taper off. As the stadium floor once more filled to capacity and the finale approached the climax, the joy of the performers and audience alike was contagious. The parade of international flags were followed by the 3,000 overseas members in their native costumes, and the many guests present saw convincing evidence of the worldwide appeal of true Buddhism and the dynamics of the Soka Gakkai International.

The NSA chorus line's performance was even more spectacular than the night before with

dazzling white tuxedos and silver sequins sparkling. Their vitality and unity gave confidence that overseas members were determined to do shakubuku and one day hold culture festivals as great as this one in their respective countries in each corner of the world.

During the finale, when all performers and audience members waved green chemical lights back and forth in the dimmed stadium, both High Priest Nikken Shonin and SGI President Ikeda could be seen moving their lights in unison with the crowd.

Following the performance, SGI President Ikeda escorted the high priest from the stadium amid the resounding cheers of all participants.

The SGI president sent a message back to the participants stating: "You did a fantastic job. This is the greatest culture festival ever and indicates a great new era is coming."

Everyone seemed reluctant to leave, and tears of joy flowed freely among the performers from the many lands as they embraced and shared the glory of their common victory over myriad problems which had led them to this moment.

NSA General Director Williams spoke and encouraged all by saying, "Today's festival was fantastic, but now let's all prepare ourselves to shakubuku for global kosen-rufu." The response was an overwhelming affirmative.

Streams of humanity flowed out of the stadium in many directions. Smiles faded into the distance and newly made friends from around the globe carried a new and stronger bond as each looked toward the future.

By Gerry Hall
Managing Editor

Song of hope...

(Continued from page 2)

Classical music—dynamic strings and bass passages—dramatized the opening of six pink flowers, each 100 feet in diameter. The young women who made up each petal wore pink leotards and moved as if in a grand ballet. Their performance was called "Flowers of the Heart."

"The Earth of Life," presented by the young men's division, was a card section performance which, astonishingly, was made up of 12,000 youth who filled up the entire baseball field from wall to wall in all directions. Their green uniforms blended with the astro turf, and when they unfolded the brilliantly colored cards they carried, the field exploded in a sea of color.

Among the scenes depicted were the emblem of the festival, a rocketship on a launching pad counting down and blasting into space, the words "Good Evening" and the never-before-heard sound of 12,000 young men vigorously greeting you with, "Konbanwa!" Also, there was a colorful checkerboard with squares of opposite color rising and falling, a volcano appeared and erupted, followed by lightning and a small sprout of a plant growing into a lush garden of flowers as "The Song of Human Revolution" was played. A baby lion growing up and one man joined by another, then two and then three, appeared to the tune of "Dawn of the New Century." And then a blue sea with rolling waves of white (Please turn to page 20)

DIGNITARIES' MESSAGES

'An immeasurable contribution to mankind'

Please convey my greetings and best wishes to all in attendance at the 2nd Soka Gakkai International World Peace Culture Festival on September 19, 1982 in Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

It is very gratifying to know that representatives from all over the world will gather together to promote deeper human understanding and harmony between nations, and I am especially proud of the substantial representation from Illinois.

Again, my best wishes for a very successful and fulfilling festival.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the second Soka Gakkai Grand World Peace Culture Festival to be held in Saitama Prefecture, at the Seibu Stadium in Japan on September 19.

It is encouraging to know that members of the Soka Gakkai International will gather to express their support for world peace and harmony among the nations of the world.

I am especially proud that several citizens of my home State of Washington will be participating in the festival. You have my warmest wishes for a useful and successful event.

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Jackson
U.S. Senator

My heartfelt congratulations to you and the congregation of the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai International on the occasion of its 2nd World Peace Cultural Festival.

In this world of unceasing strife, conflict and violence, the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai International, by its commitment to world peace through the moral and spiritual development of the peoples of all nations, is making an immeasurable contribution to the future welfare of mankind. I commend you and your associates on your untiring, dedicated efforts.

As a United States Senator from Hawaii, I am proud of the active part

which my constituents have taken in the peace effort as members of your association. My thoughts are with you all for a most memorable and meaningful festival.

Sincerely,

Spark Matsunaga
U.S. Senator

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Colorado members of the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai as they prepare to represent our state at the 2nd Soka Gakkai International World Peace Conference.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful gathering that will make a positive contribution toward the goal of world peace.

Sincerely,

Gary Hart
U.S. Senator

My heartfelt greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the Second World Peace Culture Festival. I am proud that the State of Virginia will be represented at this worthy event by forty-two participants.

As an elected public official, I do my best to promote world peace. I clearly realize that a true, just and lasting peace can be maintained only through the mutual understanding of different nations and cultures. Your culture festival is promoting this worthy end. I wish you every success.

Sincerely,

John W. Warner
U.S. Senator

Please accept my best wishes on the occasion of the Second Grand World Peace Culture Festival to be held this month in Tokorozawa City in Japan. Please extend my greetings also to the sixty participants from the State of Maryland.

As an elected public official, I do my best in my own realm to promote the cause of peace in our world. The development of mutual respect and understanding among the people of different nations and cultures is a vital effort towards attaining a just and lasting peace.

I extend best wishes and wish this event every success as a cause for peace.

Sincerely,

Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
U.S. Senator

I appreciate this opportunity to extend my warmest aloha and best wishes on the Second World Peace Cultural Festival. May this gathering be most fulfilling and enjoyable for all participants, in your shared hopes for international understanding and peace.

Your members from the Islands of Hawaii who join you on this important occasion represent a beautiful and precious part of the world. Hawaii best demonstrates that people of widely differing cultures and beliefs can flourish together in harmony.

Your efforts to promote world peace are most noble, and I wish to express my deepest wishes for your continued success.

Aloha,

Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senator

It is indeed a privilege for me to add my personal congratulations to you and the members of the Soka Gakkai International on the occasion of the Second Soka Gakkai International World Peace Culture Festival to be held in Saitama Prefecture, Seibu Baseball Stadium, on September 19, 1982.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this committee is committed toward obtaining world peace. It is reassuring to know that NSA members from 92 countries are also committed to obtaining peace for all.

I salute the members of the Soka Gakkai International. Best wishes for a most successful gathering.

Sincerely,

S. I. Hayakawa
United States Senator

It gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes and hope for the success of the Second SGI World Peace Culture Festival on September

19, 1982, in Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

World peace is a condition oft sought but rarely realized. Efforts which promote this ideal are to be commended.

The SGI festival's expressed intention of promoting peace and understanding through an international exchange of culture by people of all races and ethnic groups is, indeed, a noble one. It is my sincere hope that this goal will be promoted by the festival.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter
U.S. Senator

It is both an honor and privilege to extend my congratulations to you and members of Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai International at your Second SGI World Peace Culture Festival on this day.

Our great Commonwealth stands proud to send 32 members from Pennsylvania to participate in this most deserving event and to have 2,500 members in our state dedicated to promoting peace and mutual understanding among all races and ethnic groups through education and cultural activities.

You well deserve this recognition not only for your untiring efforts and accomplishments but for your deep concern and caring commitment to promote world peace and friendship among people throughout the world who share your goal of securing a peaceful future for all mankind.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

John Heinz
United States Senate

I am pleased to extend my congratulations on the occasion of the Second Soka Gakkai International World Peace Culture Festival, and to offer greetings through my constituents in the delegation from the State of Texas in the United States of America.

There is no more worthy endeavor than securing peace and justice among the world's people. Through the efforts of the Soka Gakkai International, there is hope (Please turn the page)

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PARTICIPANTS' IMPRESSIONS

'Beginning to feel world peace is possible'



Jan Moller

I have been a member for fourteen years, and this is my eighth pilgrimage. It's really fantastic to participate—much more than I thought. There's so much unity here with the members. In Denmark, we have about 70 members. In doing shakubuku, we often read President Ikeda's guidance. (Jan Moller exports furniture to the United States and Japan. His mother, wife, and family are all Nichiren Shoshu members.)

Jan Moller
Copenhagen, Denmark

This is the first time India has taken part in such a massive event of the Soka Gakkai and we are really proud to be able to contribute to the culture festival in our small way. Although our contribution may be small, we feel that we are making a great cause toward India's kosen-rufu. Since being here in Japan, I feel a strong sense of true brotherhood. I don't feel as if I'm in a strange land at all even though this is my first visit to Japan. I am totally at ease, as if I were at home. While here, I really want to absorb each and every moment and take back home the strong life-force that is so prevalent among the Soka Gakkai members.

Lalita Menon
New Delhi, India

This is my second pilgrimage since I started practicing 10 years ago. I was a Moslem before I became a Buddhist. I only began practicing because of my economic situation. Now, after 10 years, I have gained so much—financially as well as good health and a beautiful family. I have eight children who are all practicing as well.

T. Pontoh
Indonesia

It's really great to be with all these people from the United States. As Fife and Drum Corps members, we are all one unit, and we have no choice but to work in total unity. For eight hours a day straight, we worked so hard together and never had time even to ask each other what we did for a living. And now, after all this practicing together, we are so tight. This time, we learned how to really practice in the Fife and Drum Corps. It means turning off selfishness and I can see that we can use this training for our daily lives as well.

Susan Langfur
Belmont, Massachusetts

I am so happy that my young men's division leader encouraged me to come, because without his encouragement I probably would not have come. For the first time in my practice I am beginning to feel that world peace is possible. The people are all different but you sense that each one has a common purpose. There is a strong feeling of unity among the members. I have heard so many times in my practice that one mind is so important. We are of one mind for this culture festival and there is nothing like it.

Albors Patrick
Paris, France

No other organization but the Soka Gakkai could hold such a real peace festival on an international scale. I can now see the importance of having a strong, healthy body to be able to take part in such activities. I began training myself physically for this festival and from now on I want to continue consistently building a strong body so that I can perform many, many times in the future for world peace.

Morgan Hamilton
Alberta, Canada

I've seen so much, it's hard to express it in words. I've thought so many different things. For the first time reality and theory came together tonight when I saw so many different people from so many different places really coming together for world peace. My eyes and my ears and my touch have reached out, and I really believe without a doubt that I'll have courage now to feel for shakubuku, and my faith is that much stronger.

Richard Brown
Atlanta

At first I didn't think I'd be able to come to Japan—I wasn't able to get a holiday from my new job. But I was determined that somebody from Ireland had to go. To be involved in something like this is just incredible. I understand now that shakubuku is the only thing that is going to change the situation in Ireland.

Mairia Ni Bhrlain
Dublin, Ireland

For me this is truly a dream come true—a major step toward world peace. I can now see Europe's place in the world much more clearly. It's as if we are a part of this giant map of world peace and we have a definite place on the map. I want to work for kosen-rufu in Europe by doing all that I can to propagate Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism throughout Europe.

Claire Sottell
Richmond, England



Angela de Mata

I've been chanting for 13 years. I began chanting because I was very upset; I was divorced, and had two children to support. I just wanted to get away from all my problems. Ever since I began my practice of Buddhism, I've had a real desire to live. I've received many benefits. I have a good job working for the American government, and each year I'm able to travel. This is my sixth pilgrimage. My son is a young men's division chief in Panama; my daughter practices in Oklahoma City. Being here is like a dream. To be here with so many people, I've really gotten a grasp on what we always talk about—the kosen-rufu of the world, and our mission in this life. I'm so glad I'm practicing.

Angela de Mata
Panama City, Panama



Clara Thal

This is a great opportunity for all of us to be here. For me in particular, to be able to represent the people of my country. We bring with us the hopes and dreams of peace from the people of Venezuela. Even though our performance only lasted one minute, we were determined to put all our effort into that short time, to express our appreciation for all the joy in our lives from chanting Nam-myoho-enge-kyo.

Clara Thal
Caracas, Venezuela

By putting on this culture festival, we are showing the people of the world that it is possible for people to live and work together. I hope to be able to attend many more activities such as this. In the future we also hope many more West Germans will take part in culture festivals. And we are looking forward to the day when we have a culture festival in West Germany, so the people throughout the world will come to visit us.

Mitsue Dewitz
Hamburg, West Germany

Seeing all the different people from around the world reconfirms my confidence that I am truly living my life for the right purpose, and that is, to work for kosen-rufu. The culture festival has provided me fresh encouragement to continue practicing even harder. I expect this experience will be a real turning point in my practice. And I am sure the other members attending will have a similar experience in reawakening our faith and our determination to fight much harder for this noble cause of world peace.

Naveena Reddi
New Delhi, India
(Please turn the page)

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PARTICIPANTS' IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from previous page)

This is history, right here. I chanted to be able to participate in the culture festival, and it's really been wonderful. It's been difficult, but I wouldn't give up a minute of it. In my seven years of practice, this is a real turning point for me—and it's my second pilgrimage. In Alabama we have about 100 members, but we've been doing so much shakubuku and chanting to find people who are seeking the Gohonzon. Last month, we had more guests than ever before. I'm determined to bring back the kosen-rufu spirit.

Bill Ross
Montgomery, Alabama



Evelyn DeChaffey

The word peace just rings out throughout the stadium. There are other peace movements, but none of them have nearly the same power as we do because what we are doing is coming from deep within our hearts. We will show the world what a true peace movement is all about. It has nothing to do with demonstrations or protests, but rather, dancing and singing songs of happiness for all mankind. Because our efforts are based on chanting Nam-myoho-rengo-kyo, our peace efforts will yield a much greater result than efforts by others who attempt to bring about peace.

Evelyn DeChaffey
Antwerp, Belgium

I'm having a great experience here. To see these thousands of people supporting kosen-rufu really enables me to feel very hopeful about the future. I feel that if we are determined as YMD, we can really make it happen in Cincinnati, Ohio. At present, there are only 10 YMD and 50 members in Cincinnati, but I feel we can bring back tremendous spirit.

Niyi Oduose
Cincinnati, Ohio
8 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982 M

When I learned that I was going to be able to participate in the world peace culture festival, I began chanting that I would do my best to express my sincere appreciation to President Ikeda by putting my whole life into the performance. The Soka Gakkai is the only organization actively pursuing world peace and I can proudly tell this to other people.

It is encouraging to know that there are so many members in many parts of the world. We stand together here in Japan, then go back to our individual parts of the world, knowing, however, that we are not alone. We are working together for the same common cause of world peace.

Larry Waldrow
Anchorage, Alaska

I've had so many different experiences. The most important thing is I've learned a great deal about Buddhism by participating in this culture festival. I have grown in every possible way that a person can grow, I think, in this short time. I had a great deal of responsibility and I really had to challenge myself. I was in charge of the dancers for the Midwest Joint Territory. Because of that responsibility, I was in a position of having to make decisions and encourage people, so I had to really challenge myself every day, and chant a lot of daimoku, and I really had to strongly seek the Gohonzon. I had to learn to really use the Gohonzon. After I came to that realization, rehearsals began to go much more smoothly, and it helped the dancers learn better; we had a better rapport and they would listen to me.

Debbie Allen
Chicago, Illinois

One thing that stands out so vividly here is the unity among the members. I want to help establish that same kind of *itai doshin* in Italy—to really respond to President Ikeda's desire that we have *itai doshin*. I have so much appreciation to be able to attend the culture festival. You could see that the Soka Gakkai members are willing to do anything for world peace. All of their movements were in perfect unity. You can really see the power of daimoku from this performance, and the power of people uniting together for one common goal. I feel as if I am going back to Sicily a much stronger person—with a much greater desire to work for world peace.

Tringali Yukari
Sicily, Italy



Fukuyo Jordan

We have to be very careful, since the government (of Kuwait) does not allow freedom of religion. Yet the members are becoming happy in spite of the continual conflict. Our chanting protects the outcome of the war. Our mission is so great in spite of our size, and we have tremendous unity. (As a Japanese member, Mrs. Jordan is a pioneer of Kuwait. There are 15 families who practice there.)

Fukuyo Jordan
Kuwait

The strongest feeling I've gotten from participating in this festival is being able to work with the other members and realizing that the only way Iowa is ever going to grow is by connecting strongly to the organization. It's the only way we can do kosen-rufu. I was really moved by the show, and I was also very happy because we have three members here from Iowa. Two of them are here for the first time. What is so wonderful for me is to see how encouraged the ones who are here for the first time were last night; they are saying, "Wow, this is really great!"

Deborah Dakin
Mount Vernon, Iowa

In Taiwan this year we have been trying harder to introduce more people to the Gohonzon. We have been praying for world peace more sincerely I think than ever before. I feel as if our prayers are being answered, seeing so many happy people here together. I can hardly wait to return to Taiwan to try to convey to the other members my experience here. I hope that soon they will be able to see such a wonderful event like this. It is so hard to describe this in words; you must be here—be a part of it in order to really feel the impact all this has on your life.

Wuli How
Kao Shing, Taiwan

I was born in the seventh year of my parents' practice. My biggest benefit is to be able to participate in this movement. I am so appreciative that I have been able to come even though I wasn't able to get my money in until the day before we left and there were people on standby. My mother and I chanted together at the community center whenever we could. I would go every day to chant. I knew it would be difficult to get the money, but I felt that no matter what, I wanted to go. The Sunday before we left, we found that I needed \$100 more. I continued to chant as much as possible. On Wednesday I was able to send in the balance by express mail, and was not cut.

During practices I feel that all my chanting helped me to overcome every obstacle. Our rehearsals often did not go very well. Even right before our performance, our rehearsal was not very good. During the show, however, you could feel through everyone that we were doing it right. The timing was right for the first time. I believe our success was a result of our abundant daimoku.

Kathleen Trigg
Louisville, Kentucky



Sim Siak Choon

President Ikeda is showing us and the rest of the world that the way to peace is by exchanging culture. Later this month in Singapore we will hold our first youth culture festival. Being here is helping me to prepare for that event because I am seeing what a dynamic impact a culture festival can have on one's life. I hope to be able to carry this spirit back with me and convey it to the members at home so that we can establish unity among the youth division members along with the other divisions in achieving a great success for our youth culture festival.

Sim Siak Choon
Singapore

(Please turn to page 10 for youth culture festival)



SGI President's encouragement

Not only did SGI President Ikeda host a dinner for the overseas participants (see page 21), he also wasted no effort in encouraging the performers during the rehearsals and performances. The six haiku below follow the traditional Japanese style of penning poems in 17 syllables (the English translations utilize more). Also, on the day of the September 19th performance, ignoring the downpour, President Ikeda visited the performers to offer heartfelt encouragement.

The whole world awaits this event,
the waves of peace it shall create.

'Tis the creation of an era for culture
and peace everyone had dreamt of.

Even the devils of the heavens have retreated
behind the light of peace.

The radiant dances of the culture festival
shall shine forever.

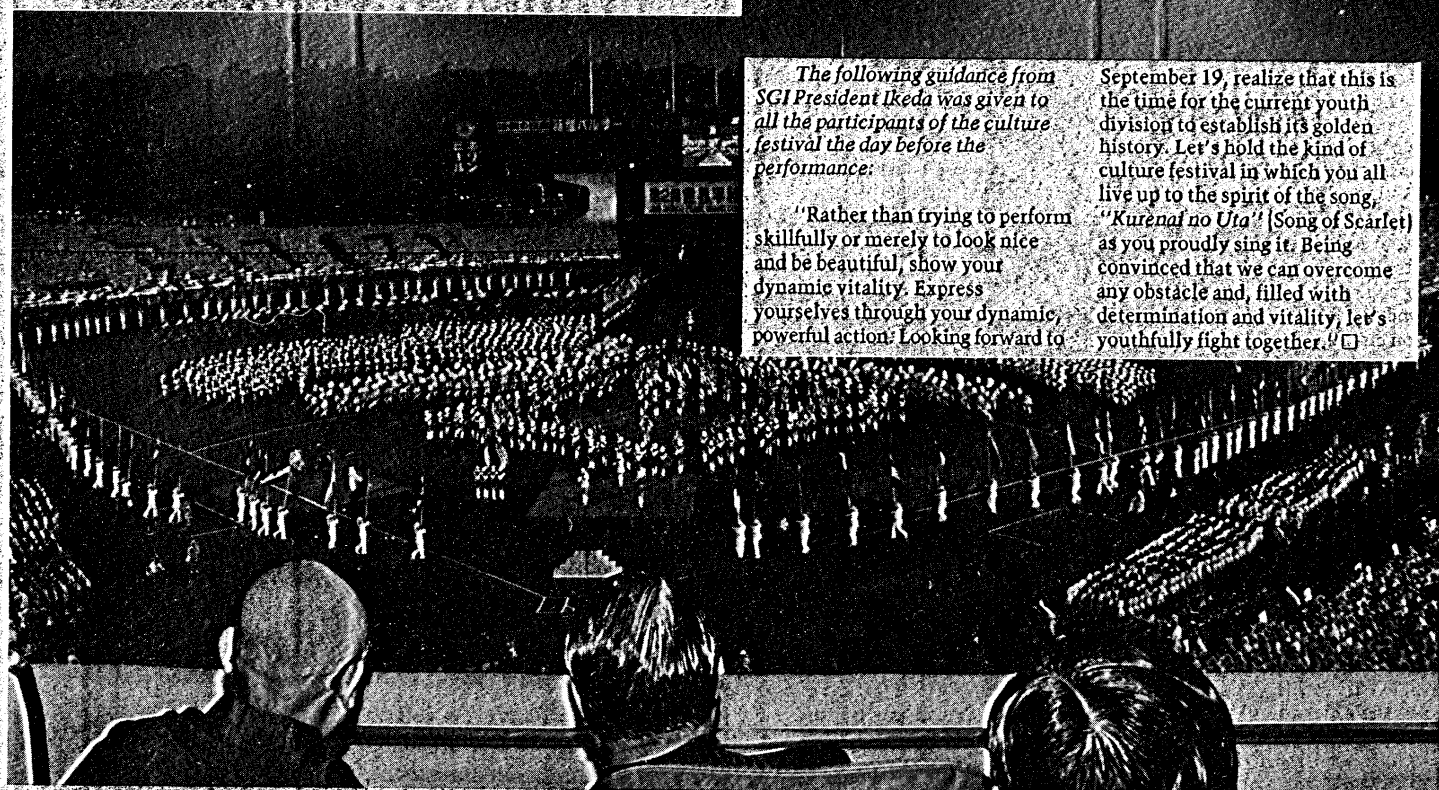
'Tis an event worthy of the highest praise,
this event of peace and culture.

This battle for the Mystic Law shall be
the victorious song of your life.

The following guidance from SGI President Ikeda was given to all the participants of the culture festival the day before the performance:

"Rather than trying to perform skillfully or merely to look nice and be beautiful, show your dynamic vitality. Express yourselves through your dynamic, powerful action. Looking forward to

September 19, realize that this is the time for the current youth division to establish its golden history. Let's hold the kind of culture festival in which you all live up to the spirit of the song, "Kurenai no Uta" (Song of Scarlet) as you proudly sing it. Being convinced that we can overcome any obstacle and, filled with determination and vitality, let's youthfully fight together." □



The view from the press box where High Priest Nikken Shonin and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda are seated for the culture festival. Inset, President Ikeda ignores the rain to visit the performers as they prepare for the show.

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PARTICIPANTS' IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 8)



Pierre Paulo

It's amazing to be here. I've never seen anything like this. We have 700 members in Italy, and more and more are joining. There's no longer such strong Catholicism in Italy, and through our hearts we are able to show actual proof of true Buddhism.

Pierre Paulo
Italy

I was introduced to chanting seven years ago in Michigan. I chanted for four-and-a-half years in Colorado Springs and practice now in North Dallas. This is my first trip to Japan. I've been amazed at what members can do. There are so many countries represented here, and so many people. No other organization could do this—it's just phenomenal. We're proving, in spirit, that the Gohonzon works by turning chaos into perfect performances. I pledge to become a magnet to attract people to the Gohonzon and encourage others to become happy. This whole experience has really helped me to understand the meaning of kosen-rufu.

Irene Arellano
North Dallas, Texas

I've never seen anything like this in my life and so far what I've seen is deeply impressing. I want to take all the spirit happening both in the stadium and outside behind the scenes; take all of this spirit back to Germany.

Ingele Sakamoto
West Germany

It has been a great experience to participate in this culture festival, as I have had an opportunity to contribute to world peace personally. I am so thankful to each participant. These festivals help us to unite and to shakubuku others outside of the organization. If we don't have unity among countries we don't have anything. The basis is faith, practice and study following the guidance of SGI President Ikeda.

Gilberto Remon
Panama

I started to practice Buddhism 13 years ago. Boulder has almost all youth division members in my headquarters. Many of them wanted to come, but they couldn't, due to lack of space. I therefore feel responsible to return with deeper faith than when I left. I am determined to make sure that all of the people who wanted to go and couldn't will be able to next time. I feel so fortunate to be able to work for kosen-rufu.

Larry Coulson
Boulder, Colorado

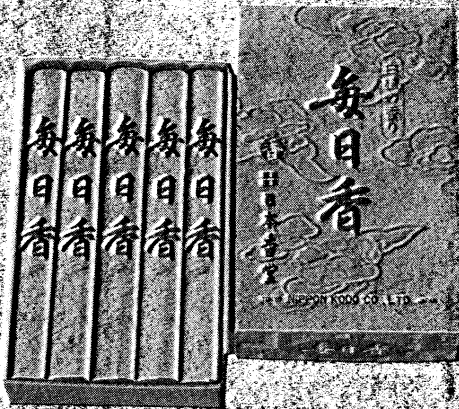
I had to overcome a lot of negativity standing in line as a flagbearer. This is my first pilgrimage and a most dramatic experience. I've been practicing for seven-and-a-half years. At times during my practice, I kind of "bottomed out." I had severe asthma and used to get pneumonia, but now for the last few years I have been perfectly healthy and financially secure. The Soka Gakkai members are so wonderful. The sea of faces—a river—they're all so happy. I think that is what I really have to bring back to Virginia.

Larry Barclay
Newport News, Virginia

I saw the Kansai film and thought it was impossible to be able to participate in such an event. Now I am here and so happy to see many people working for kosen-rufu. There are as few as 500 Nichiren Shoshu families in Venezuela, fighting hard for the membership to grow. Our desire is for President Ikeda to come to our country soon.

Elizabeth de Villegan
Venezuela

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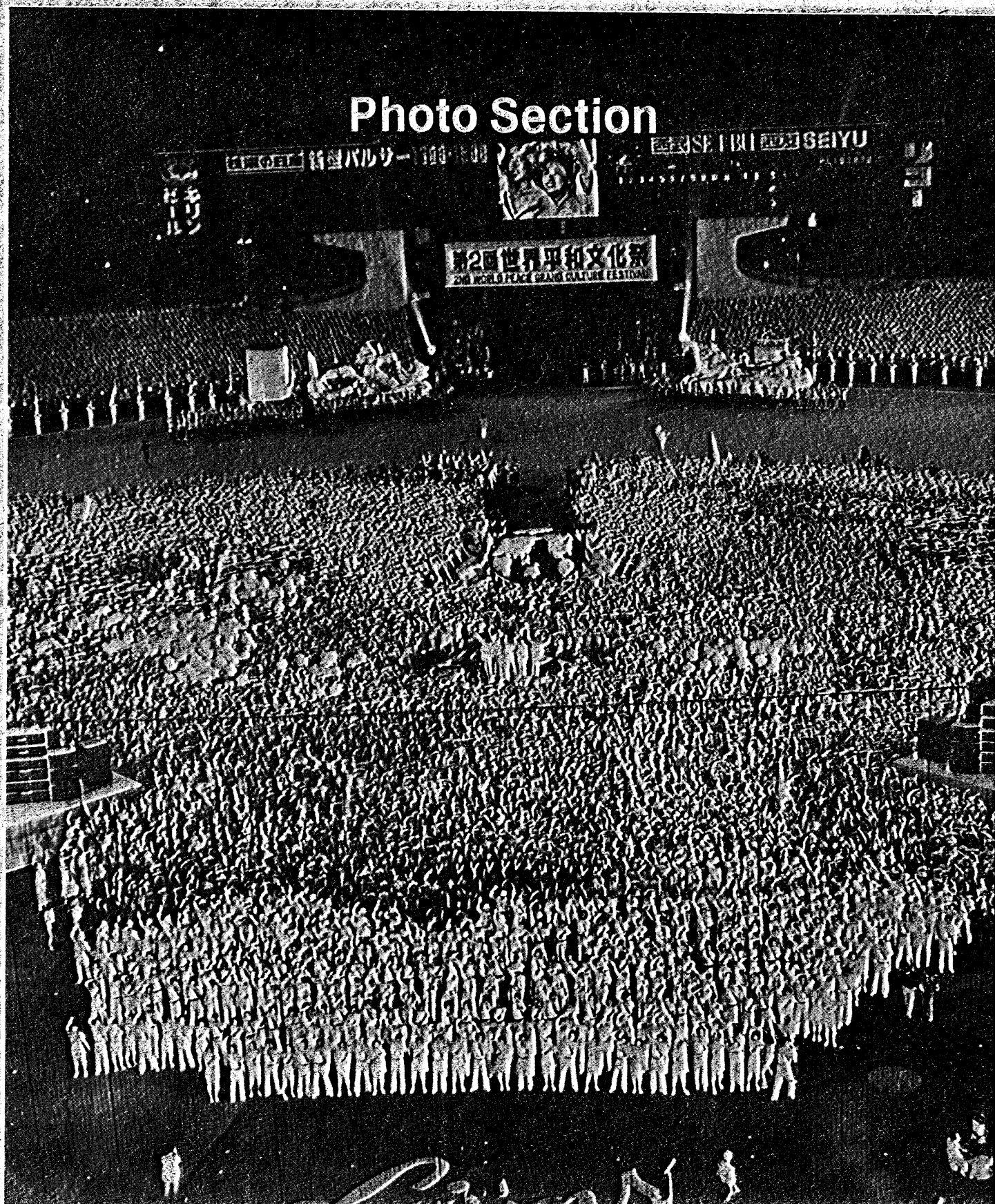
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Photo Section

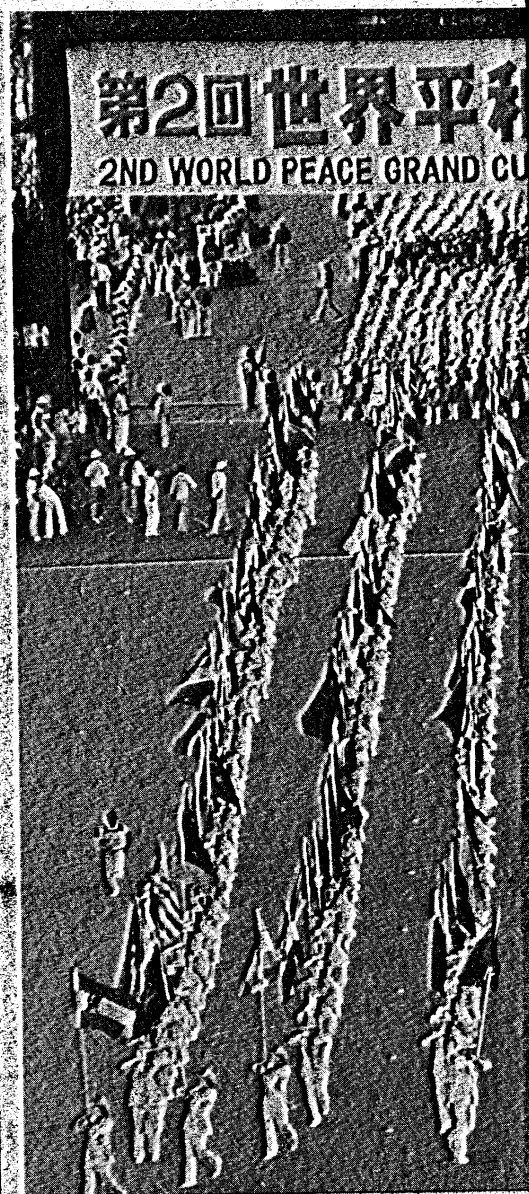


Held on consecutive nights at the Seibu Lions Stadium in Tokyo, the second World Peace Culture Festival utilized many innovative techniques and formations. Here, during part of the finale, the screen on the scoreboard flashes close-ups of the participants.

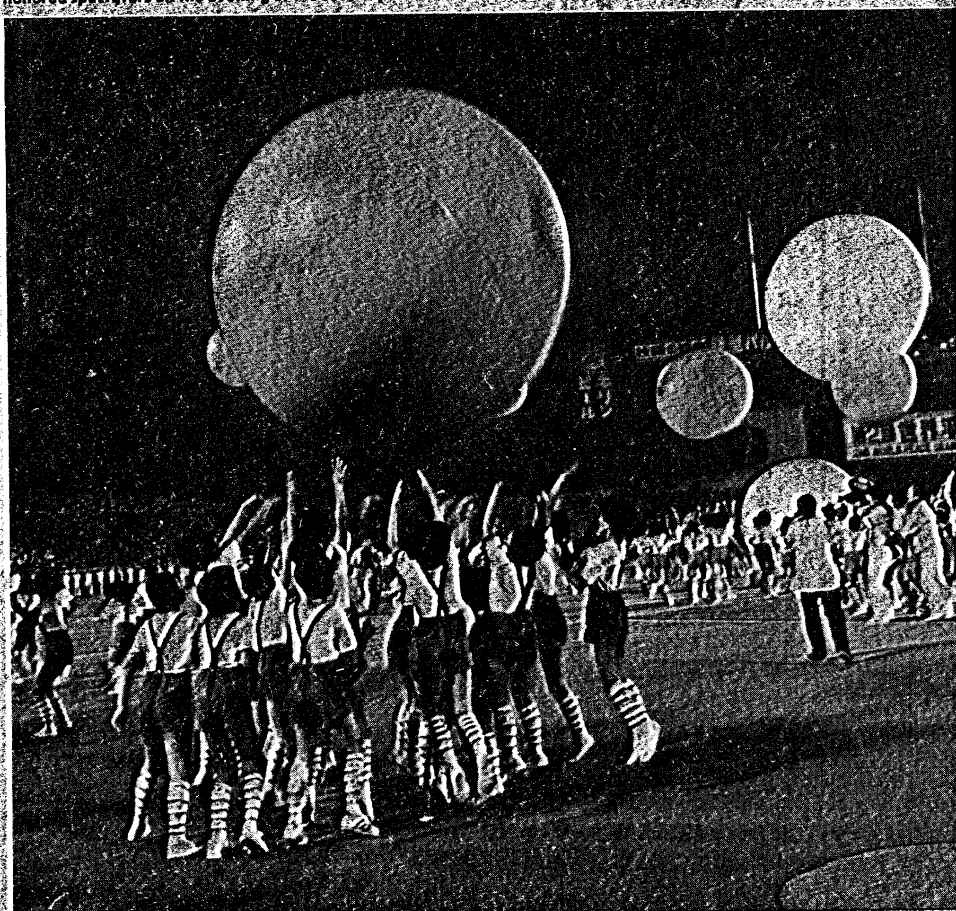
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982, 11:01



Nichiren Shoshu High Priest Nikken Shonin, right, and Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda are among the honored spectators on the evening of the second performance on September 19.



Entrance of flags signals start of culture festival.

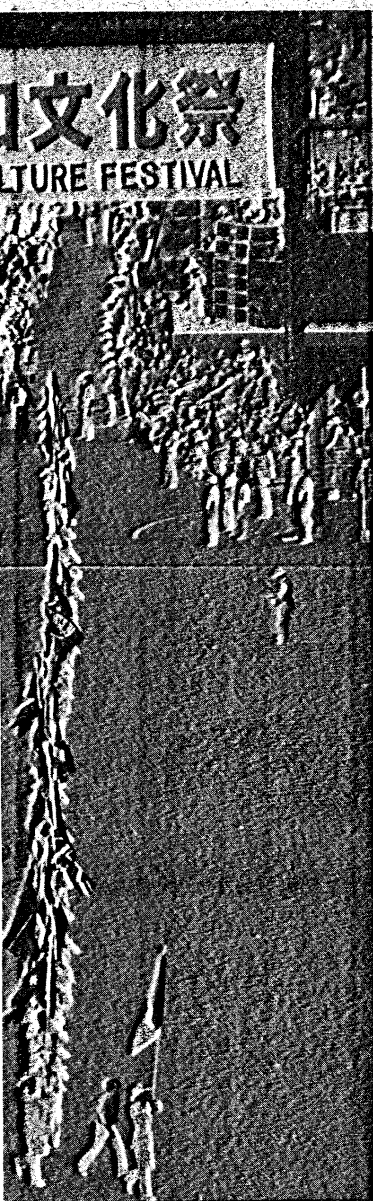


Junior Pioneers with their oversized balloons.

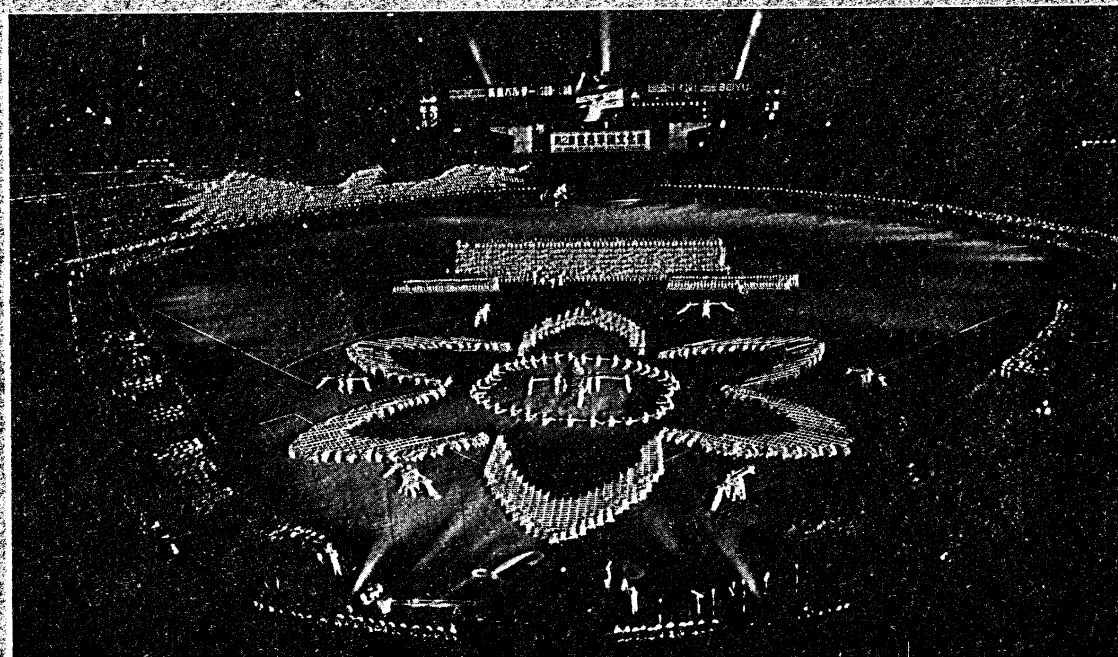


Joy and jubilation fill the faces of the participants.

12 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982



NSA Chorus Line dancers perform in their sequined tuxedos.

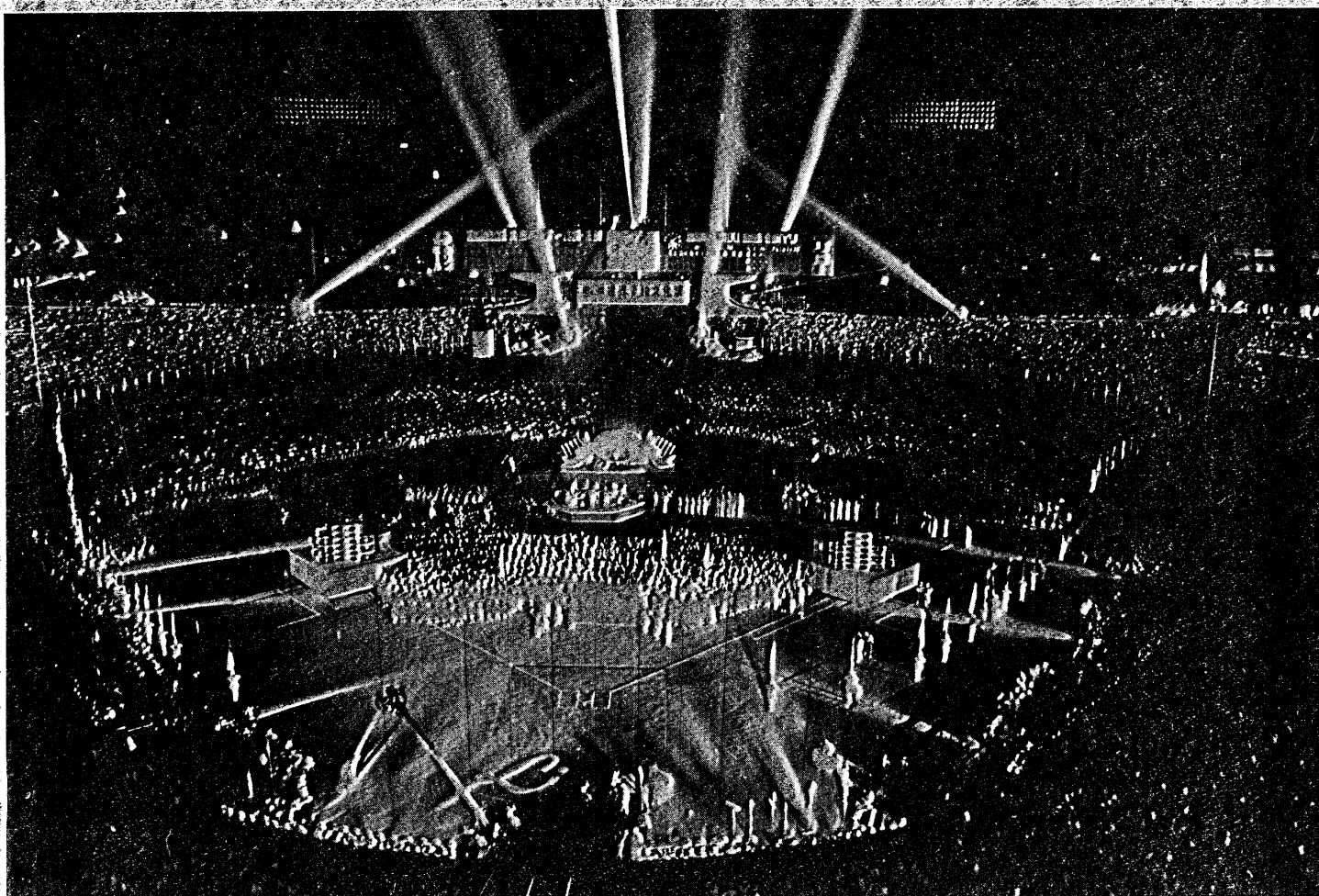


Japanese members form the Sho-Hondo with precise coordination.



Cast and audience join in signalling a 'Light of Peace'.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982 13



As arc lights make beautiful patterns in the sky the parade of international members begins with a group from several nations carrying the Soka Gakkai International flag.



Sporting umbrellas, the invited guests enjoy the show, which was made more memorable by the inclement weather.

14 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982

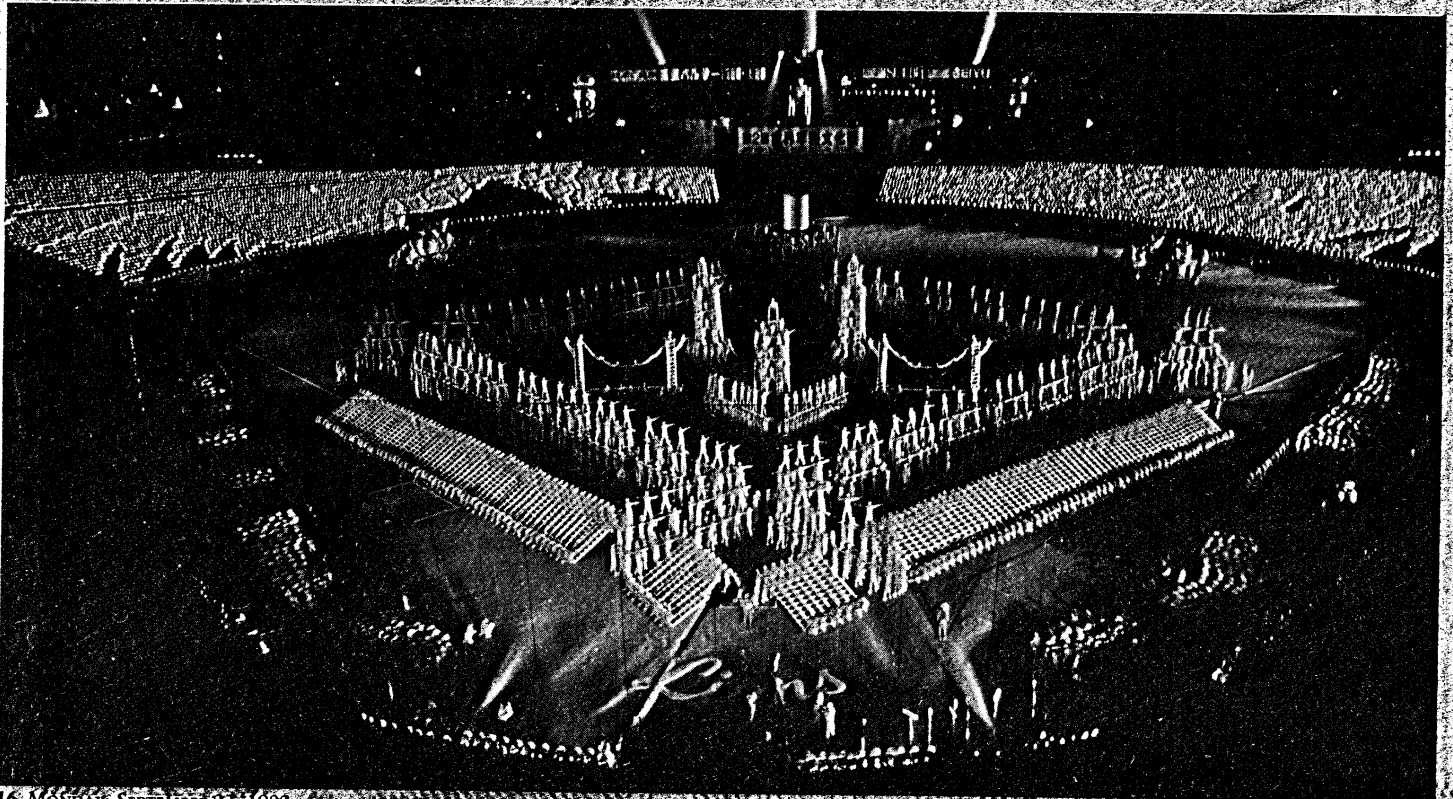
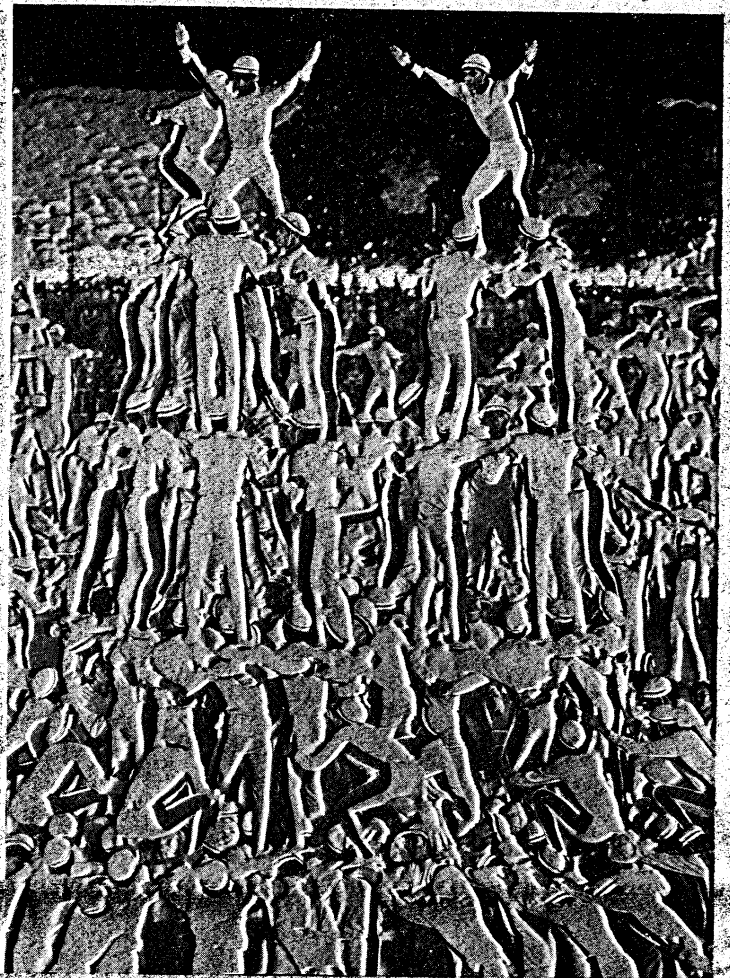
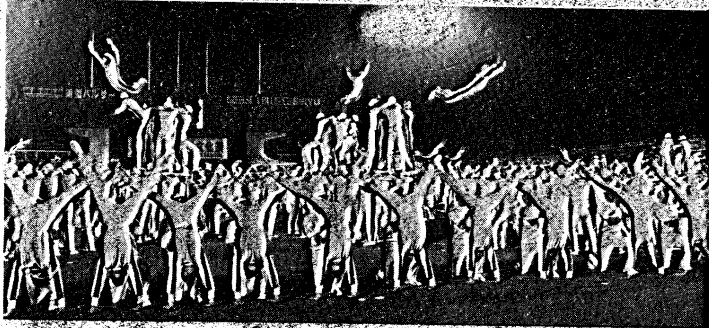
Angels of Peace

The Angels of Peace — the combined NSA Fife and Drum Corps and the Fujii Kotekitai, their Japanese counterpart — contributed mightily to the two shows in Japan. These photos show how East and West can meet for the common cause of global peace and culture.



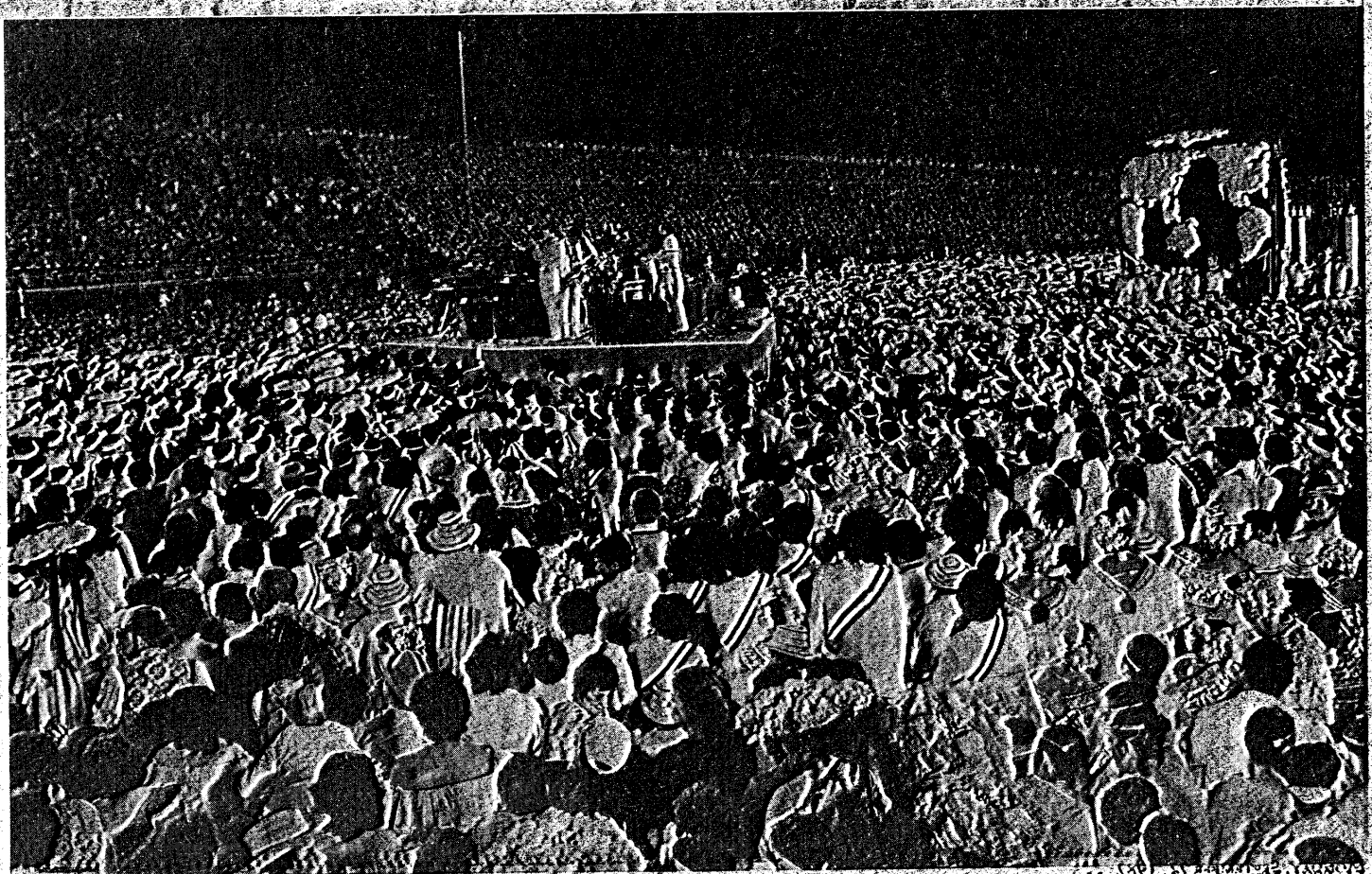
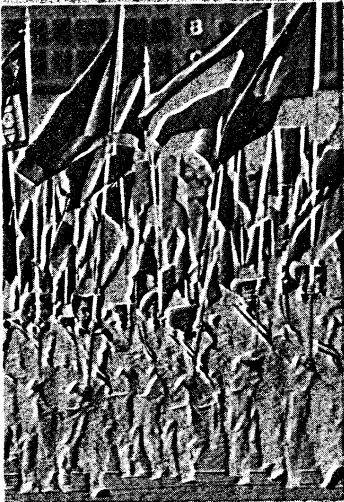
Determined young men

The young men of the Soka Gakkai are proud to be active in their organization. Through intricate gymnastic routines, the building of human pyramids, the expressions of joy and hope on their faces, and the unforgettable performance of their brass band — these young men are forever showing the world that they are determined to build a glorious new future for themselves and everyone.

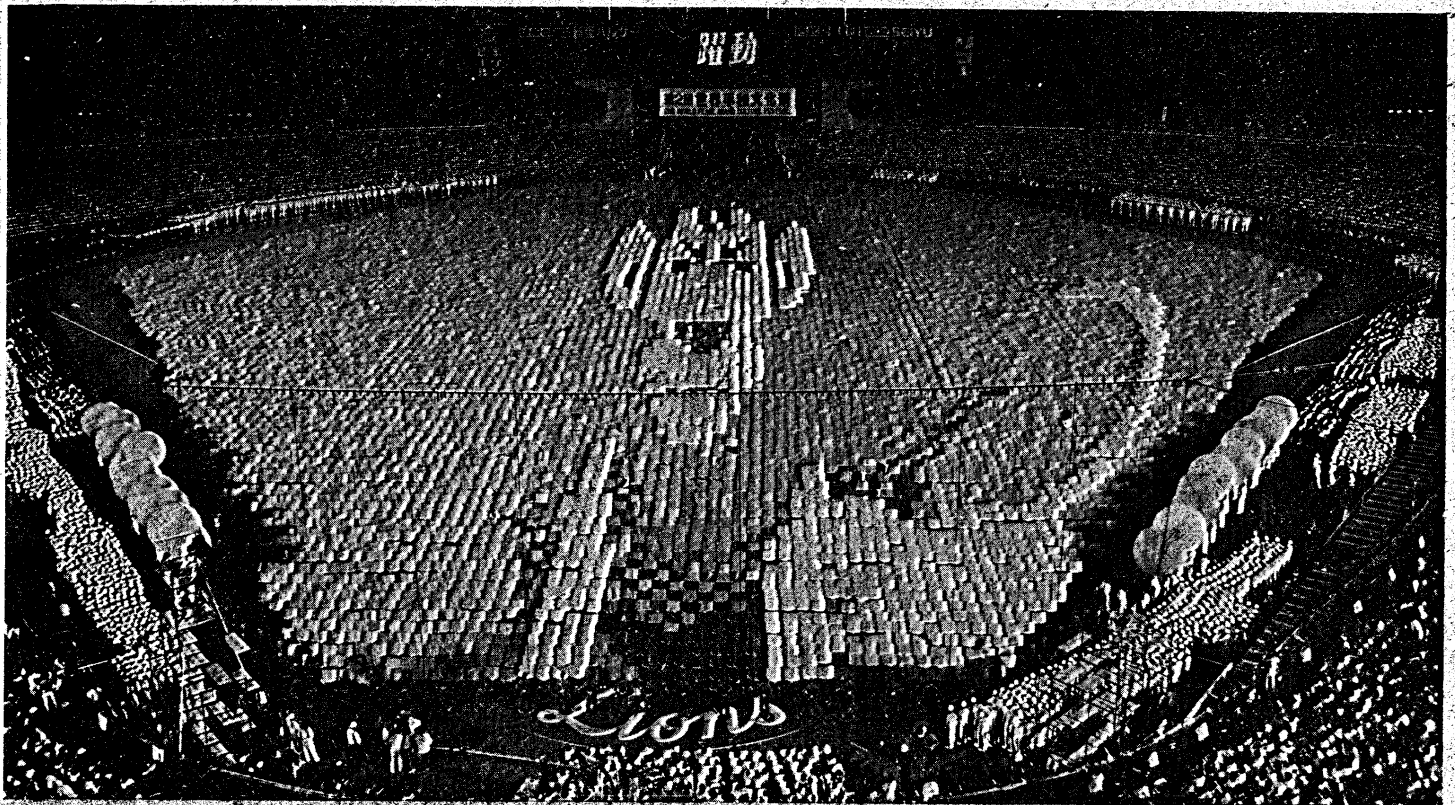


NSA Performers

NSA members were everywhere, doing everything for the success of the culture festival, whether it was behind the scenes, or performing on the stadium floor, or doing Polynesian dances on the roofs of the dugouts.

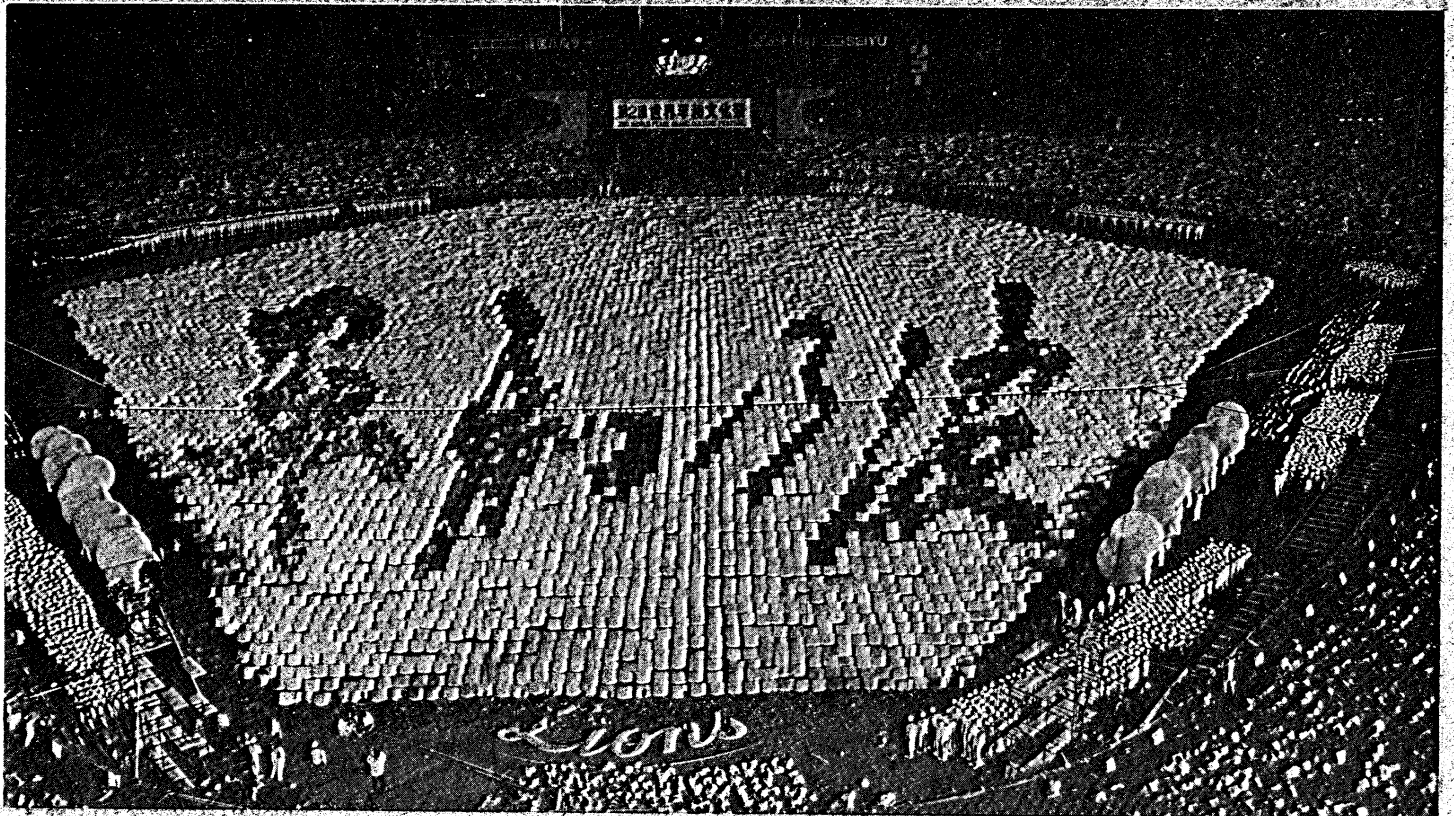


MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982 19 31



Flash Card Section

The card section is rapidly becoming a hallmark of the Soka Gakkai's culture festivals. In these two photos, the 12,000 card-holders flash a lion, symbolic of the courage in faith of those who embrace the Gohonzon, and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's calligraphy of 'Waves of Peace,' below.



Faces tell the true story



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982, 19

15 SEPTEMBER 27, 1982

NSA contingent greeted upon arrival

TOKYO
SEPTEMBER 24

The first chartered 747 carrying NSA members to participate in the events surrounding and including the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival and the Third Soka Gakkai International General Meeting arrived safely this evening at Narita International Airport on the outskirts of Tokyo. Although this flight originated in Los Angeles, it was made up of NSA members from many parts of America who will be performing in the festival.

Passing smoothly through immigration and customs formalities, the international travelers were greeted by a contingent of local Soka Gakkai youth division

members and a number of NSA's advance party. Modern motor coaches brought the group to their lodgings at Tokyo's new Takanawa Prince Hotel where an official greeting and orientation awaited them.

Soka Gakkai Vice President and Secretary General of the Nichiren Shoshu International Center Yasunori Takimoto greeted the arriving members on behalf of Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda and read a message from the SGI president as follows:

May I express my heartiest welcome to all of you for traveling long distances to come to Japan. Furthermore, I want to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart for being able to participate in the Second World Peace Grand

Culture Festival which celebrates culture and peace, the common desire of all human beings, and also to make a pilgrimage to the Head Temple Taiseki-ji.

It is my deepest prayer that each one of you will make a great advancement in your faith through attending this tozan session, in which the members from various parts of the world will pledge to make this period a new beginning for the progress of kosen-rufu. Please take the best care of your health and I hope that your stay will become most meaningful for all of you. I will eagerly be looking forward to meeting you.

Daisaku Ikeda
SGI President

In his own remarks, Mr. Takimoto stated that the activities to take place in the next days will mark the start of a new advance toward the 21st century and the establishment of kosen-rufu. He stressed that each participant can show through their actions and make in their hearts a pledge to become a part of this advance.

NSA Vice General Director James Kato then greeted the members on behalf of NSA General Director George M. Williams, and following the dissemination of schedules and other information by NSA staff members, the newly arrived group got settled for a night's rest in anticipation of the exciting days to come.

G.H.

Song of hope...

(Continued from page 4)
on which SGI President Ikeda's writing of "Waves of Peace" appeared.

Huge 10-foot-diameter balloons appeared for the next performance, which featured children dancing like cartoon characters.

A highlight of the festival was the Soka Gakkai young men's gymnastic performance to the YMD song, "Kurenai no Uta," [The Song of Scarlet]. Dressed all in white, these 3,000 gymnasts carried the artform of dynamic human sculpture to new levels of excellence. There was row upon row of squares, triangles and circles. Thousands stood on their heads on the ground, on the shoulders of others, and finally at the tops of seemingly countless four- and five-storied pyramids.

One massive pyramid structure was actually three combined, and held three men separately at the top. Another unbelievable scene was the construction of the Sho-Hondo. This human replica of the Grand Main Temple of true Buddhism came complete with a fountain of diving YMD. This commemorated the 10th anniversary of the completion of this significant edifice.

Another highlight was the construction of rows and towers of YMD which systematically collapsed like dominoes falling. This was followed by the unbelievable construction of suspension-bridge-like shapes, several with four, and one with six young men linked hand to foot and arm to arm over what seemed to be a 20- to 30-foot span.

A spectacular display of green laser lights and huge search lights crisscrossed the now darkened sky

with a beautiful canopy of light. The card section in the background changed from cards to colored lights. The stadium's message board's huge television picture displayed historic pictures of the second president of the Soka Gakkai, Josei Toda. The narration told of his declaration against nuclear weapons and how he had called upon the youth to take responsibility to abolish them forever. It then shifted to his successor, Daisaku Ikeda, the current SGI president, and how his leadership of the Soka Gakkai's movement for world peace and his own travels for peace and talks with the world's leaders are fulfilling this great mission.

This was followed by an entrancing and almost magical dance by thousands of young women with torches entitled "Light of Peace." Next was another gymnastic performance. This one was presented by the student division and was called "Fortress of Peace."

Using white steel ladders, young students in blue suits poured onto the field with apparently unlimited energy. They proceeded to dazzle the audience with speed, precision and vitality. Flowing waves, clanking steel, carousels, towers, and a huge wall of blue which waved up and down like some kind of dancing waterfall all delighted the spectators. All the while, a brilliant red eagle soared in the illuminated background of the card section.

There were traditional Japanese performances also. The young women's division danced with round hats which later revealed inner lights, creating a solid circle of dancing color. More than 1,000 shamisen (a string instrument) performed, as well as other traditional folk dances. Huge

floats illustrated Japanese fairy tales for children. And the whole place seemed to frolic in a wild dance of the traditional mixed with modern styles.

The finale did the seemingly impossible, and topped all the spectacle which had come before. To the music of "Forever Sensei" sung by the chorus, a parade by representatives of overseas countries began, titled "With Friends From Around the World." The international flags once again led the way for members dressed in the native costumes of their homelands. As each group passed by, the card section spelled out a famous city of their country and displayed scenery as well as a flashing digital clock which gave the local time of that part of the world—all in brilliant lights.

The music shifted to "The Dawn of Peace" and then to "The Impossible Dream" as more and more of the cast poured into the scene until it truly looked as if the entire human family of the world had gathered.

The tone shifted as a modern jazz group, The New Renaissance Sextet, featuring Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Buster Williams, performed in the now half-lit stadium. Then, with lights flooding the arena, a lively modern dance by YMD and YWD led into the performance of the NSA Chorus Line dancers. Their white and silver tuxedos sparkled as did the precision of their routine. It was a colorful and exciting display of unity.

While the chorus sang "Renaissance for Peace" with great gusto, everyone, performers and audience alike, turned on the chemical lights they had been carrying. A green glow from nearly 80,000 lights swayed back and forth together, eloquently expressing the

united hopes and determination of all for the establishment of world peace. The outline of the map of the world emerged from the lights.

The finale concluded with the singing of the "Song of Scarlet" and "Kofu ni Hashire."

The unlimited enthusiasm of the participants was obvious as the cheer "AAO" sprang up spontaneously over and over. It rolled across the stadium floor more than 100 times, as tens of thousands joined in.

As this evening's performance was only the first of two nights' performances, various Soka Gakkai youth division leaders spoke to the assembled cast and encouraged them to continue to do their best to make the next day's event even more successful. NSA General Director George M. Williams was invited to say a few words. He congratulated them on the fantastic performance and reminded them that their efforts were so very meaningful and they were truly leading to worldwide kosen-rufu. Once again the assembly responded to his "AAO" and the singing of "Forever Sensei."

With the atmosphere still high, the audience was reluctant to leave. As they gradually filed out, the NSA members from Hawaii presented Tahitian dances, hulas, and other Polynesian performances on top of the dugouts.

Later in the evening, when the high-spirited NSA performers returned to their hotel, each bus was greeted and congratulated once more by General Director Williams.

The night was already a memory which would last a lifetime, and yet attention and expectation was already turned to tomorrow's performance, and the anticipation of yet a greater challenge.

G.H.

SGI President fetes overseas performers

HACHIOJI CITY
SEPTEMBER 17

As the anticipation and final preparations for the Second World Peace Culture Festival continued to build toward a climax, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda hosted a reception for 3,000 overseas Soka Gakkai International members this evening before the festival. The members, representing 37 countries including 1,500 from the United States, were in Japan to attend this historic event and for a pilgrimage to the Head Temple Taisei-ji.

The members gathered on the athletic field of Soka University for an outdoor dinner to celebrate the eve of the culture festival, resolving to make the next two days' historic events a great success.

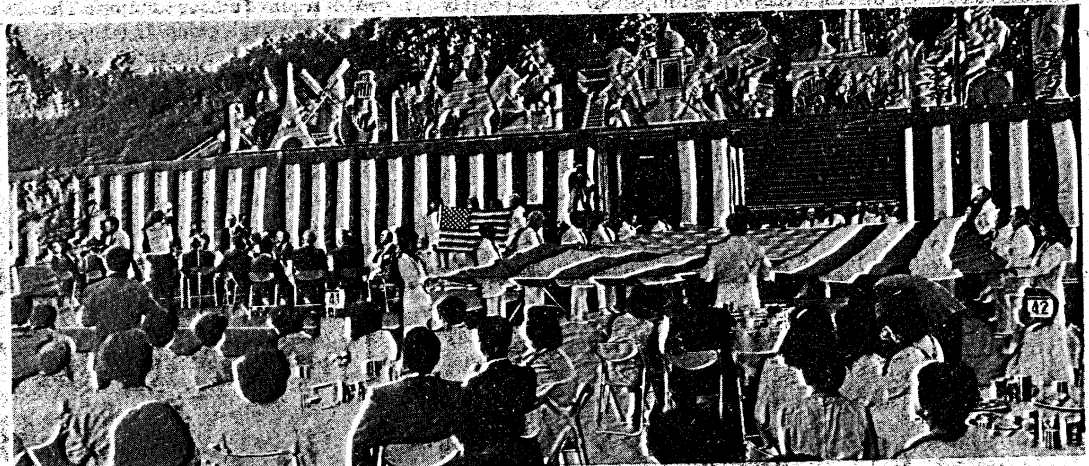
Amid clear skies, warm weather, an international backdrop decorating the reception area, and members dressed in authentic clothing of their various cultures, the scene was set for an evening exchange of true friendship and an opportunity for the members to express their appreciation to SGI President Ikeda for his efforts in promoting world peace.

The evening began with greetings from Soka Gakkai General Director Kazuya Morita and from Peter Kuhn, General Director of Nichiren Shoshu West Germany, expressing the great joy being felt around the world as the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai intensifies its activities toward leading the campaign for the worldwide rebirth of peace.

NSA General Director George M. Williams spoke both in Japanese and English as he delivered his message of deep appreciation to SGI President Ikeda on behalf of the members in the United States. He proudly announced that he had brought with him 51 congratulatory messages from United States senators and congressmen. Each of these letters expressed hopes for the great success of the upcoming culture festival. These leaders of American society commended SGI President Ikeda for his efforts and those of the Soka Gakkai in working to establish harmony among all people throughout the world. Highlighting Mr. Williams' presentation to SGI President Ikeda was an American flag which flew over the United States capitol building in Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1982 and was being presented to SGI President Ikeda by United States Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, as a token of his appreciation for the peace efforts of the Soka Gakkai. Senator Matsunaga's congratulatory



NSA General Director George M. Williams presents to SGI President Daisaku Ikeda an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Mr. Williams also presented 51 congratulatory messages to the SGI president from United States senators and congressmen.



Festively decorated Soka University arena provides setting for pre-festival gathering.

letter read in part, "...I commend you on your efforts as President of the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai International. The SGI, by its commitment to world peace through the moral and spiritual development of the people of all nations, is making an immeasurable contribution to the future of all mankind."

General Director Williams then went on to say, "Today, and from now on, we will work with *itai doshin* together under the guidance of SGI President Ikeda. Let's proceed to fight toward world peace and *kosen-rufu* together."

Fourth Soka Gakkai President Akiya then sincerely thanked the members for their efforts in coming to Japan to participate in the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival. He said, "The key to attaining victory, to attaining *kosen-rufu*—is solidarity—*itai doshin*. I would like all of you to remember that you should keep in solidarity, centering

on the central figures in each of your respective countries."

Following President Akiya's talk, everyone was treated to a fantastic dinner which began with a toast by Eiji Yamazaki, Chairman of Nichiren Shoshu of Europe. Later, a mini-culture festival was held as performers from different countries danced, sang and played music, delighting everyone present and adding even more joy to a more joyous evening of celebration.

SGI President Ikeda then expressed once again his sincere appreciation to the 3,000 overseas members making the trip to Japan to take part in the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival. He also invited everyone attending to write their name and determination toward May 3, 2001 which will then be buried along with those of 10 million Japanese members of the Soka Gakkai in the foundation of a new building to be constructed behind the new

museum at Soka University. He also said to all those assembled, "You are all pioneers of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth, assembled here from various corners of the world. You are all very precious people, full of pride."

"We are going to have the greatest culture festival ever seen in the world. And I am very happy that all of you have come. I want you to fully enjoy the culture festival. It is my sincere desire that we will be able to hold this kind of grand world peace culture festival in your respective countries in the future."

What had taken place this evening was much more than just the establishment of a warm friendship among the 3,000 overseas members present at this celebration. Their fresh resolve in faith was an indication of an even greater human bond that will continue to grow throughout the world.

By Tobie Marsh
Washington, D.C.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982 21

Rehearsal augurs success of festival

TOKYO
SEPTEMBER 15

A dress rehearsal for the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival took place this afternoon and evening at the Seibu Lions Stadium located in Tokorozawa City, a suburb of Tokyo. This modern baseball stadium was filled to capacity with more than 35,000 parents and other relatives of the festival performers. Although the packed stadium was an impressive sight, it paled before the more than 40,000 performers who were to take the field and execute spectacular feats of coordination and movement.

This was the first full dress rehearsal and it was remarkably smooth considering that the pieces of this huge puzzle, the separate performances and in many cases even sections of a single performing group, were fashioned at distant locations only now to be fit into place.

This dress rehearsal offered a rare opportunity to look behind the scenes and view some of the workings of the

human machinery that make such huge festivals possible. In Nichiren Daishonin's Goshu, it is written that by fasting a single drop, one can know the flavor of the ocean. This rehearsal was also a chance to view closely the efforts of the individuals who, when seen as a whole, blend into a human ocean of color and motion more dynamic than any sea.

The culture festival participants of NSA who had arrived in Japan the night before, traveled two-and-a-half hours by bus to the rehearsal site. As they approached the stadium on foot, the thousands of family members continued to file into the seats—mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers—there were many smiles exchanged and more than a little anticipation.

The Nichiren Shoshu International Center had set up a control center in one building and inside were hundreds of overseas members. Squeals of joy rang out from time to time as NSA members discovered old friends from other countries—Panamanian dancers in

dress of white face trimmed with red and green and the golden costumes of Southeast Asian members blended beautifully with the blue, red and white of NSA's cowgirl and Indian Fife and Drum Corps uniforms.

The dress rehearsal began at 5 p.m. with a noisy burst of daytime fireworks and international flags were carried in by the NSA Young Men's Division. Group after group entered and exited with remarkable speed from the one large opening in the centerfield wall. Behind the scenes, one could see the large crew directing the flow of traffic.

It was a major task to find the space even outside the stadium for the more than 40,000 performers, and it required unique solutions. The largest single group, 12,000 young men who filled the entire stadium floor and created fantastic card stunts, poured out of the 50-foot-wide opening at an all-out run following their performance. For more than six minutes it flowed like a raging river that curved down the hillside and

terminated only in the nearby train station where special trains departed as they were filled. The group had arrived in the same manner.

There were marvels of technique and organization, one after another, until the mind could register no more, but it was the faces which left a lasting impression. Up close, by that centerfield entrance gate, one could see the eyes, the smiles, the concentration and the enthusiasm of each performer had moving into position, waiting to go on, or exiting at high speed.

There was no doubt about it. These were individuals as varied as one could ever find. From young children to young adults, they hold a common purpose and determination. When the festival is over, these young people will channel their energy and determination into revitalizing society, but for now, all attention is focused on one thing—making the upcoming festival an unprecedented success.

G.H.



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Tireless efforts behind the scenes

TOKYO

One of the most dynamic and touching aspects of the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival in Japan were the unrelenting, behind-the-scenes activities by hundreds of NSA members who worked tirelessly to help make the culture festival a success.

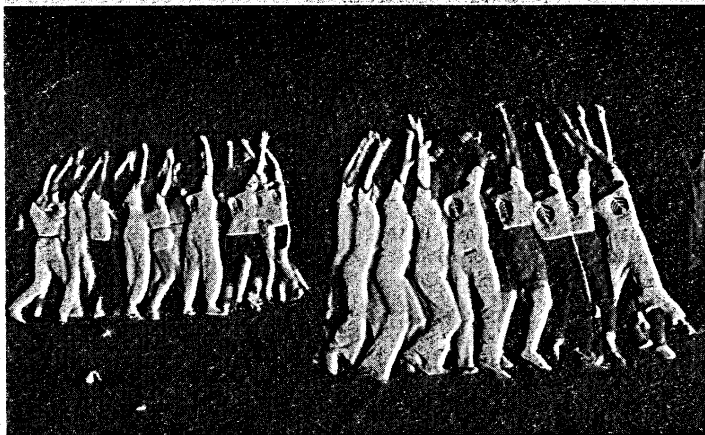
Around the clock, costume workers sewed and fitted hundreds of elaborate costumes. During the final days of the culture festival, cast coordinators, choreographers, and sound technicians fine tuned and made final preparations with the dances and music. Members of the stage crew worked throughout the night and day, installing wiring. These are the people who, year after year, literally turn their lives over to NSA, for months at a time, volunteering to do whatever it takes to assure the success of the various cultural events.

Preparations for the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival began several months ago and proved to be one of the most extensive NSA cultural events to date.

Diana Albergate of Los Angeles has worked in the costume department the past eight years. She and others were responsible for coming up with the designs and the completion of more than 300 international costumes, representing various countries around the world. Says Diana, "Over the years, the costume crew has become like a family. Everything we've been doing the past several weeks has centered on the world peace culture festival and thinking about it I realize that working with the members of the costume crew, I feel a sense of world peace, because we are all different—work various jobs during the day, yet in the evenings and weekends we work together, united for one common goal."

Scotti Hom of Los Angeles has worked as a member of the costume crew for the past 11 years. Says Scotti, "I've worked behind the scenes because I feel this is my way to help with the kosen-rufu movement. The time I get my greatest satisfaction is seeing a performer on stage wearing a costume and knowing that it took the effort of many people to complete. And that the people who put forth the many hours of effort did so simply because they wanted to, as their contribution to kosen-rufu."

Karen Potter of Los Angeles is a cast coordinator. She and the other members of her crew are responsible for attending all the dance rehearsals,



Rehearsing at night...every night.

taking roll, working as liaisons between the dancers and the costume department, for example—doing everything it takes to help the dance activities become successful. Says Karen, "Ten years ago I began working behind the scenes with the dancers. I do this because I believe strongly that cultural events are so important in achieving our goal of world peace. So anything I can do to help the performers get out on that stage and give their most for kosen-rufu, I'll do. Over the years I've watched the performers really grow in their faith as a result of taking part in the cultural activities. It encourages me to think that in some small way, I may have contributed to their growth."

Fran Medina of New York has been working with the cast crew for the past 11 years. Fran says this opportunity has changed her life in ways she could never have imagined. Says Fran, "Working with the cast crew has really opened up my life and helped me become a much more caring human being. Rather than live a selfish existence, it has enabled me to become more responsible for and concerned about others. The more I have to handle the various problems that come up—which almost always involve people—the more I find myself truly caring about their well being."

One other behind-the-scenes worker in NSA is Gary Murie of Los Angeles, who has the responsibility of the stage crew, which he has done the past 10 years.

When Gary and his crew arrived in Japan to set up for the international performance of the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival, they went directly to the warehouse where they worked all night, unloading floats, scenery backdrops, tools and other equipment. After only one hour

of sleep they were up and off to Seibu Lions Stadium, site of the culture festival, to assemble the floats. That they did all day, in the rain. In one of the many expressions of unity during the stay in Japan, Japanese members helped the American stage crew workers with their huge job.

At the end of that day, the crew managed to get four hours of sleep before it was time to head off to Soka University to set up scenery for a reception for the overseas members. Following that duty, the next two days were spent almost exclusively at

Seibu Stadium, totally engulfed in the mechanics and difficulty of setting up and monitoring a stage full of complicated electrical devices.

Gary Murie has his own business, which is related to his work in NSA. He makes the time to work for NSA because "The more I do for NSA, the more my fortune grows by leaps and bounds. During this recessed economic time when businesses like mine are suffering, I have so much business that I have to hire people to help me with my work."

"But more importantly, one of my greatest joys is being able to pick up General Director Williams' winning spirit—his dreams, his passion for peace. The more I'm around him, the more I feel his dreams becoming mine too. I want to do all that I can to help those dreams for peace come true."

That sincere desire for peace is imbedded in the hearts of thousands of other NSA members throughout the country, who silently carry out their mission, perhaps unnoticed, yet whose tireless efforts are absolutely vital in turning the dream of a peaceful world into reality.

By Tobia Marsh
Washington, D.C.

PERFORMERS' DIARIES

'A glorious end to our campaign'

This is the diary of a chorus line performer from the Los Angeles area named Florrie Adelson, whose words here take us from September 13 to September 19—the day of the triumph of the Second World Peace Grand Culture Festival!

Monday, September 13, 4:30 p.m., Los Angeles. Everyone looks radiant in their crisp white uniforms with red or blue as we board our plane for Japan. Members have come to say goodbye and they cheer as we leave. I remember I had persisted through four weeks of auditions before I was selected as a dancer, so I had already learned a major lesson: Never give up! I feel very happy to be going on this pilgrimage.

Tuesday, September 14, 10 a.m., Tokyo. Upon our arrival at the hotel, we are told that SGI President Ikeda has been longing to see us. He has sent each one many gifts, and I am

deeply moved by this considerate gesture.

Wednesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m., Tokyo. We perform our dance for 30,000 people gathered at Seibu Lions Stadium to see a run-through of the show.

This is our first meeting with Japan's chorus line, a beautiful group of young men and women. It is the first time for the Soka Gakkai that men and women have danced together.

There were many changes to the dance, but we got it together, and had a wonderful time performing. We've all learned to be flexible and to support no matter what!

Thursday, September 16, 9:00 a.m., Tokyo. We are told at rehearsal that we are just this side of being right. What's missing is our total commitment. If we conquer this in (Please turn the page)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982, 23

PERFORMERS' DIARIES

Glorious...

(Continued from previous page)

the dance, we'll have conquered it in daily life.

Six weeks ago, when I was chanting to come, I realized that I needed to come to change my negativity, to work with more concentration. I had not expected to get this through the dance!

Friday, September 17, 9:00 a.m., Tokyo. The dancers from Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago have finally arrived, and we rehearse with them and the Japanese dancers. We are right on, and it is terribly exciting.

Friday, September 17, 1:30 p.m., Tokyo. We leave for Soka University and a sumptuous dinner with President Ikeda.

The thing that impresses us most is each other. There are more than 3,000 members from around the world coming to the culture festival and most of them are here today. Kosen-rufu is definitely going to happen, we feel.

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m., Tokyo. The sun has finally

made a commitment to come out. We leave for Seibu Stadium, costumes in hand. Our bus is late and we miss most of our rehearsal time. The rehearsal is chaotic, incomplete.

Saturday, September 18, 4:00 p.m., Tokyo. We rehearse again, and it goes well. President Ikeda has sent a message: Make tonight the performance. Joey Sheek asks us to give our full concentration to these four minutes and we'll change our lives.

Saturday, September 18, 5:30 p.m., Tokyo. We see parts of the show as we stand on a rooftop waiting our turn. Nothing but a strong commitment to kosen-rufu could have brought these thousands of people to perform as they do. Surely there has never been another night like this one. The presentations are spectacular. We all feel deeply the good fortune we have to be a part of it.

Saturday, September 18, 7:30 p.m., Tokyo. We perform and it feels wonderful! Later I understood that as I had put my all into performing for kosen-rufu, I could do the same in daily life. I had been feeling reluctant to go home and face my problems, but



Florrie Adelson

now, armed with a deeper understanding of this Buddhism, I feel ready to challenge my life.

Sunday, September 19, 2:00 p.m., Tokyo. I face my biggest obstacle when it is announced that our opening has been changed and we will run in, in unison, the length of the stadium. I consider dropping out, as my leg muscles give me pain when I run this hard, even for short distances.

Sunday, September 19, 3:30 p.m., Tokyo. I decide to go on and chant daimoku that I can do it, somehow. I feel that this will be my contribution to kosen-rufu, remembering the phrase, "never begrudging our lives..."

Sunday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. We are told we will walk into the stadium. I had to change me before the situation could change!

It is raining, and people who wait with us, from Thailand, Hong Kong, Hawaii, and everywhere, all chant daimoku privately. Once again I am struck by the magnitude of this organization.

Sunday, September 19, 4:30 p.m., Tokyo. We perform for SGI. President Ikeda, then we bring out chemical lights and so does the audience, 50,000 people, waving a "light for peace." We get closer to our Japanese chorus line and later, as with all our performances here, only more so, the streets are lined with people waiting to applaud us, shake our hands or hand us gifts. It is an experience I will never forget, a glorious end to this campaign. □

'So proud to be a member of NSA'

This is a diary of the trip to Japan for the World Peace Culture Festival kept by Nancy Lee Kaplan of San Francisco.

Friday, September 10. The fact that my pilgrimage is beginning right now still hasn't really become a reality in my mind. I can't believe that all the obstacles to keep me from coming have been washed behind, and I'm boarding the plane with 16 other Five and Drum Corps members from San Francisco to leave for two days' training in Los Angeles before going to Japan. I am really determined to use this trip to create a 180-degree change in my karma, and to deepen my faith 100 percent for my happiness and for kosen-rufu.

Saturday, September 11. It is so beautiful to see 178 young women all together, fighting so hard for the same cause, going through similar obstacles and fighting for kosen-rufu. We practiced eight hours together and end the day crying with frustration because we didn't do well enough. We determined to change 100 percent for the better.

Sunday, September 12. We did it! After two hours of daimoku together and six more hours of practice, we looked beautiful! Daimoku does wonders. A man off the street asked if



Nancy Lee Kaplan

we had been practicing for months. We replied that this was our second day of practice.

Monday, September 13, and Tuesday, September 14. Arrival in Japan. President Ikeda had incredible arrangements all set up for us. His care and concern are beyond belief. I never before realized his incredible efforts for every one of us.

Wednesday, September 15. Practice at Seibu Stadium. Some 45,000 Japanese performers were there practicing with us. Their faces are so pure, and their spirit so fervent

for President Ikeda and kosen-rufu. I am so fortunate to be part of this incredible journey and the 2nd World Peace Grand Culture Festival. I can't express the joy I feel in my heart to be able to work for kosen-rufu.

Thursday, September 16. It's getting hard to keep up with the movement. The pace of the Japanese members is very unified and forceful. Daimoku is the only way to keep up! I have never seen so much emotion in everyone's life. There is a constant flow of tears of joy and determination on all 45,000 faces.

Friday, September 17. Festival at Soka University. I felt I really met President Ikeda for the first time. He spoke to us for about five minutes. All he talked about was our health and our happiness. I really feel in my heart his whole purpose. I feel the care and concern of his for each human being and for kosen-rufu.

Saturday, September 18. The first performance. Besides all the karma coming out from everyone, the worries about the routine and worries of rain, we all came together, showing many millions of daimoku. We performed beautifully with proud, smiling faces and tears of joy. I am so proud to be a member of NSA!

Sunday, September 19. Second

performance. I know our show was a true shakubuku show!

Monday, September 20. Sho-Hondo! There are no words to describe my experience at the Sho-Hondo. This day was a day to truly conclude our purpose in Japan. I know this whole trip will be a memory deep in my heart forever and a key turning point for my life. □

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